

Britain: Soviet move unacceptable

LONDON (UPI) — Britain hinted strongly to the Soviet Union Wednesday that it would retaliate if the Kremlin reduced British representation in Moscow in a widening row over fit-for-fat expulsions. Senior government sources said Britain would not bow to what it regards as unacceptable Soviet demands for a cut in the number of British nationals and their Soviet staff working in Moscow. Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe told the BBC's "World at One" broadcast the Soviet ultimatum was extremely "unrealistic" and "simply not thought through." The two countries have been involved in an escalating diplomatic confrontation since Britain expelled 14 Soviet diplomats and journalists last Friday, accusing them of spying. The dispute has brought a sense of strain to a recent improvement in relations, caused by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to London last month. It has prompted fears of long-term damage to Anglo-Soviet ties. The Kremlin responded to the expulsions by ordering 14 British diplomats and journalists to leave the Soviet Union. In a further move, it said that the number of Britons and Soviet citizens employed in Moscow should be cut from 375 to 205, the same level as official Soviet representation in Britain.

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Gorbachev calls for united Arab voice

MOSCOW (UPI) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, in a message to the Arab summit in Casablanca, called for a united Arab position on the issue of a Middle East settlement, TASS News Agency said Wednesday. Gorbachev also reaffirmed the Soviet appeal for an international peace conference on the Middle East, TASS said. "The United voice of Arabs is especially important to a successful settlement. We hope that the conference will be able to work out a pan-Arab platform on this crucial issue," he said. The Kremlin leader said there were now favourable conditions for peace. "In point of fact, broad consensus has been reached in favour of an international conference on the Middle East," Gorbachev said the shift in world opinion towards such a conference was due largely to the Palestinian uprising and the "well-considered and constructive" policy of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). He said the Soviet Union had suggested a number of ways to prepare for a peace conference through the United Nations but also was open to suggestions from others. "We do not reject other ideas as well, provided, of course, that they go in the right direction."

Independence Day celebrated today

AMMAN (I.T.) — Jordan today celebrates the 43rd anniversary of independence from Britain.

Independence came on May 25, 1946, fulfilling one of the objectives of the Great Arab Revolt, which began early this century with the aim of liberating Arab countries from foreign domination.

On the occasion of Independence Day, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, issued a statement outlining Jordan's achievements in development and its efforts in the service of Arab causes on pan-Arab and international fronts under the leadership of His Majesty King

Hussein.

The Petra statement also gave details and figures about development achievements of Jordan on the domestic front with particular emphasis on health services, education and public services, and outlined progress achieved in the field of agriculture and industry.

The statement also reviewed developments on the political front and Jordan's continued efforts to liberate Arab lands. It reaffirmed that Jordan was seeking to convene an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and

In his meetings, held during the Holy Month of Ramadan, the King said Jordan's forces would be strengthened to serve as a shield protecting the whole Arab World.

On the occasion of Independ-

ence Day, ceremonies will be held in all parts of the country.

The Ministry of Education has organised a sports festival to be held under royal patronage at Al Hussein Youth City. Nearly 9,000 male and female students will present performances at the stadium.

Greater Amman Municipality has organised several exhibitions in Amman and other towns featuring aspects of Jordanian development under King Hussein's leadership.

All government institutions and public organisations will be closed Thursday to mark the occasion.



HM King Hussein

Khomeini recovering

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, was recovering Wednesday from surgery to stop internal bleeding.

Khomeini, 88, held a brief meeting with close aides at the Tehran hospital where he underwent an operation on the digestive tract Tuesday, Tehran Radio reported.

Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was quick to stress his position in Khomeini's inner circle by announcing that he had visited the ayatollah.

Palestinian sources said the army arrested at least 40 people in Hama and rounded up dozens of youths at a U.N. school in Amari.

The army also made arrests in several other West Bank villages, sources said.

"God willing, we will see the Imam for long years, healthier and stronger, at the helm of the Islamic revolution," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Rafsanjani as saying.

"He was in bed, and the doctors were around him. His health was very good," he said. "He was very cheerful. I asked him if he had any pain, and he replied that he had very little, and that he is comfortable."

"He is feeling very well," Rafsanjani said.

President Ali Khamenei told the radio that the operation was "extremely successful."

Khamenei lead a prayer session, similar to others held around the country, for Khomeini's health in the mosque near the patriarch's Tehran home, the reports said.

Tehran radio said Iranians prayed for Khomeini's full recovery in mosques across the country. The Armenian community announced it would hold thanksgiving services Friday.

Khomeini's son said Tuesday the revolutionary patriarch was in "very good condition" after the surgery.

The younger Khomeini told Tehran Radio several hours after the operation was disclosed on Tuesday: "There is nothing for the people to worry about."

Iranian television, later showed film of Khomeini leaning on a stick, walking slowly into a Tehran hospital accompanied by his son.

It also showed Khomeini after surgery, wrapped in a colourful shawl and rubbing a string of prayer beads in one hand, propped up on a hospital bed with an intravenous drip in his arm.

Power struggle likely to intensify, page 2

Israelis raid W. Bank villages, detain dozens

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops arrested dozens of Palestinians in overnight raids in the occupied West Bank, the army and Arab sources said Wednesday.

An army spokeswoman said troops carried out search-and-

arrest operations in Al Amari refugee camp near Ramallah and Husan village near Bethlehem. She declined to say how many people were detained.

Palestinian sources said the army arrested at least 40 people in Hama and rounded up dozens of youths at a U.N. school in Amari.

The army also made arrests in several other West Bank villages, sources said.

The raids, described by the army as "initiative actions, are part of a crackdown resumed last week to detain Palestinian activists.

More than 30 West Bank villages have been raided since Sunday and scores of Palestinians detained.

In another development, the Israeli parliament gave preliminary

approval to a bill that would allow authorities to confiscate the money or property of organisations or of people convicted of "security" offences in Israel and the occupied territories."

The bill also permits the courts to by-pass laws of evidence in the interest of "national security."

The bill must be approved in two more readings before parliament before it becomes law.

In Bethlehem, police found the body of Walid Darwish, 40, a suspected drug dealer, and said he was killed overnight. Palestinians said it was unclear if he had been suspected of collaborating with Israel.

Israeli forces were attacked with gunfire and a home-made bomb Wednesday amid growing concern in Israel that the 18-month Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories was turning to armed struggle.

The latest attacks in the West Bank, slightly injuring a soldier, followed a call purportedly issued by leaders of the uprising to liquidate a soldier or Jewish settler for every Arab killed by Israel.

In Ramallah, Brigadier-General Shaike Erez, head of the West Bank "civil administration," met separately with 10 Palestinians to promote the plan, officials said.

Leading Palestinians and the PLO have largely rejected the proposal.

U.S. president welcomes Soviet plan to cut forces

NEW LONDON, Connecticut (Agencies) — President George Bush Wednesday welcomed a sweeping new Soviet proposal to cut troops, tanks and artillery in Europe and said the East-West military situation there could be transformed.

"Through negotiations, we can now transform the military landscape of Europe. The issue are complex. The stakes are very high, but the Soviets are now being forthcoming and we hope to achieve the reductions that we seek," Bush said in a commencement address at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

Bush praised Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reform movement and said he would like to see the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact alliance in Eastern Europe assume a defensive posture like that of the U.S.-led North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

"Our aim is nothing less than removing war as an option in Europe," Bush said.

His statement was apparently prompted by a Soviet proposal at the conventional forces in Europe (CFE) talks in Vienna.

But Bush said it still was necessary to maintain strong nuclear deterrence with a new U.S. long-range mobile missile and making other ocean-spanning land-based missiles transportable.

"We live in a time when we are witnessing the end of an idea, the final chapter of the communist experiment," Bush said. He called communism "a failed system, one that promised economic prosperity but failed to deliver the goods, a system that built a wall between the people and their political aspirations."

He urged further reductions by the Soviet-led alliance.

Additionally, Bush called on the Soviets to disclose accurate accounts of their military outlays.

Bush also played on the theme of open markets in his speech and said "if we succeed, the next decade, and the century beyond, will be an era of unparalleled growth."

Bush said success also required an end to conflict and turmoil. He said the United States and its allies were pursuing a strategy of strength, economically, diplomatically and militarily.

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Moscow sends more tanks to Kabul in show of support

KABUL (R) — The Soviet Union poured fresh supplies of tanks and artillery into Kabul Wednesday in a dramatic show of support for the embattled government of Afghan President Najibullah.

Najibullah, defying predictions his government would collapse as soon as the last Soviet forces withdrew last February, has launched a new drive to persuade Mujahideen rebel commanders to start peace talks, saying he cannot be defeated militarily.

Three days after he announced his latest proposals to end 10 years of bloodshed in Afghanistan, the Soviet Union delivered a heavy convoy of trucks, tanks, artillery and command vehicles.

The column of T-62 and T-54 tanks, armoured personnel carriers and artillery driven by Afghan soldiers was followed by a long line of fuel trucks, relieving a petrol shortage in the Afghan capital.

Helicopter gunships escorted the convoy into the capital as it passed through the ring of snow-capped peaks around Kabul.

An Afghan brigadier supervising the column at a checkpoint to the entrance to Kabul declined to say how many vehicles were in the convoy.

"What I can tell you is that it has taken an hour to pass this point so far and we'll be here for another half-hour at least until the last one has gone by," he said.

Western correspondents estimated the column at between 400 and 500 vehicles. Tanks threw trails of dust and black clouds of exhaust into the clear Kabul sky as sheep and cattle grazed by the roadside.

Soviet officials meet with defector

ANKARA (R) — Soviet embassy officials were allowed to visit and talk to a Soviet air force pilot who defected with his MiG-29 to Turkey over the weekend, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

Inal Batu said the pilot, Captain Alexander Zuyev, had been

refusing to see Soviet officials, contending he had left his country of his own free will and did not plan to go back. "But we persuaded him to meet with embassy officials in view of the friendly relations between our two countries," he told reporters at his weekly briefing.

Najibullah's Afghan government is doomed to collapse due to rebel attacks and will probably be replaced by a weak coalition of Mujahideen guerrilla groups, a leading political research group said.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) said in its annual strategic survey the withdrawal of Soviet troops in February had brought out rivalries between rebel groups. But there was no immediate danger of civil war.

The IISS ruled out cooperation between rebels besieging major cities and the Kabul government. "The communist regime is doomed to disappear even if it takes some months after the Soviet forces pull out... the next regime will probably be a puritan and conservative Islamic republic," said the survey by the independent London-based institute.

It said the next government, including groups loyal to Iran and others backed by Pakistan, would inevitably be weak.

"In the countryside there will be a mosaic of power, made up in part of large political units, in part of loose tribal confederations, in part of areas plunged into anarchy due to local feuds," the review of world events said.

"Patchy as this sounds, it could still provide an equilibrium stable enough to maintain a regional stability which would not provoke foreign intervention and would allow Afghanistan to regain its historical status as a buffer state," the survey added.

Several Mujahideen leaders both inside and outside Afghanistan rejected his proposals.



HOUSE DEMOLITION... Israeli forces blow up the home of a Palestinian suspected of involvement in the 17-month-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Demolition of Palestinian home is a form of collective punishment netted out by the occupation authorities against resistance activities by the people living in the occupied territories.

U.N. plans Iran-Iraq contacts

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

— Further U.N. contacts are needed with Iran and Iraq before Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar can decide on his next move in trying to end the Gulf war, a U.N. spokeswoman said Tuesday.

She said Perez de Cuellar held a 90-minute meeting with his personal representative for the Gulf, Ambassador Jan Eliasson, to discuss contacts the Swedish diplo-

mat had here last week with Iranian and Iraqi officials.

The secretary-general feels that more discussions are needed and he has asked his personal representative to continue the contacts before making a decision on what the next step should be," she said.

The foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq have held several rounds of inconclusive "proximity talks" under Perez de Cuellar's auspices

since a ceasefire in the Gulf war went into effect last August.

After the most recent round, in Geneva last month, the secretary general said he hoped to be able to convene another session some time in June.

The U.N. spokesman said Perez de Cuellar regretted that a 1987 Security Council resolution setting out a blueprint for peace had not yet been fully implemented.

Iraq in, Iran out in UNCHR vote

UNITED NATIONS (R)

— Iran, with only nine votes, was forced in its bid Tuesday to join the U.N. Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR), while Iraq won entry by 28 votes.

Abdul Hamid Ghodse of Iran received seven votes and was defeated in his bid for membership of the International Narcotics Control Board.

Pakistan and the Philippines were elected to the human rights commission along with Brazil, France, Ghana, Hungary, Italy, Madagascar, Mexico, Pakistan, Senegal, Somalia, the United States and Yugoslavia.

The Economic and Social Council conducted elections by secret ballot, with these other

results:

Statistical Commission: France, West Germany and the Netherlands.

Population Commission: Botswana, China, Iran, Mexico, the Soviet Union, Britain and the United States.

Commission on Human Rights: Ghana, Senegal, Madagascar, Pakistan, Philippines, Iraq, France, Italy and the United States.

The United States received 33 votes compared to 47 for Italy and 44 for France. (Austria was rejected, receiving 31 votes).

Commission on Narcotic Drugs: Japan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Britain, Australia, Spain, Sweden and Belgium.

(Iran came in at the low end with 14 votes.)

Commission on Transnational Corporations: China, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, East Germany, West Germany, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Switzerland, Tunisia, Uruguay and Zimbabwe.

UNICER board: Barbados, Canada, China, Finland, West Germany, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Thailand and Zimbabwe.

U.N. Development Programme governors: India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, West Germany, Denmark, Portugal, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

International Narcotics Control Board: Quijano Narezo of Mexico and Wladimir Wieniawski of Poland.

Khomeini ailment seen likely to fuel Iranian power struggle

By Ed Blanche
The Associated Press

eminence ... is perhaps one of history's exceptions in his physical structure and state of health," the chief surgeon, Dr. Hassan Arefi, declared.

That may have comforted Khomeini's followers. But it was also a reminder of Khomeini's mortality and emphasised that the question of who will rule Iran in the post-Khomeini era is wide open.

On March 28, Khomeini dumped his designated successor, Ayatollah Hussein-Ali Montazeri, one of Iran's biggest political upheavals since the 1979 revolution ended 2,400 years of monarchy.

Political and religious leaders are grappling with changing the revolutionary constitution to eliminate what Khomeini calls "flaws and imperfections" and settle the leadership question.

The recommendations of the 20-man constitutional committee that Khomeini appointed will go before voters in a re-

ferendum in mid-August — the same time Iranians vote for a new president.

Since Iran abruptly accepted a cease-fire in the eight-year war with Iraq last summer, it has been gripped by political uncertainty.

Anti-Western revolutionary radicals led by Prime Minister Hussein Musavi and Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, who favour tight control of the economy, are locked in a power struggle with those seeking more free enterprise and links with the West.

In March, Montazeri was forced to resign after criticising Khomeini's policies and questioning what the revolution had achieved in its first decade.

Montazeri's resignation followed Khomeini's sharp swing back to fundamentalist radicalism. In February, Khomeini ordered Muslims to seek out and kill British author Salman Rushdie for his novel, "The

Power struggle is likely to intensify.

"Montazeri's resignation raises the question of how far Ayatollah Khomeini is prepared to go in his current drive to root out revisionism," commented Charles Snow, an analyst with the Middle East Economic Survey weekly.

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Rafsanjani, the only declared presidential candidate so far, wants to widen the powers of the office and scrap the premiership to eliminate the competing power centres that have paralysed decisions on the economy and social reform.

If, despite the radicals' strength, Rafsanjani can change the constitution his way and win the presidency, he would be expected to make profound changes in Iran's power structure.

Current President Ali Khamenei, whose second four-year term expires in September, has asserted that concentrating power in the presidency will not lead to a dictatorship and noted: "You can't run a country... if there is too much dispersion of power."

The uncertainty is compounded by Khomeini's tactic of constantly switching support for one faction or another so none becomes too powerful.

Far-reaching impact

Against this backdrop, the deliberations of the constitutional committee will have a far-reaching impact on Iran's future.

Rafsanjani, as well as Khomeini's son Ahmad, whose political ambitions are starting to show, will likely be on that leadership council.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

S. Arabia gives PLO \$12 million

NICOSIA (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has ordered a payment of just over \$12 million to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to back the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, a Palestinian official said. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA), monitored in Nicosia, quoted Rafiq Al Natheh as saying in Riyadh Tuesday that the money represented the Saudi contribution for April and May. "This brings the total amount received by the PLO since the beginning of 1989 to \$30.1 million," he said.

Sudanese rebels free clergymen

NAIROBI (R) — Sudanese rebels said Wednesday they had freed a Roman Catholic archbishop and three priests held captive since late February. Rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) commander Lam Akol said Paride Taban, archbishop of the southern Sudan town of Torit, returned to his home in the morning and was now free to resume his ministry. The SPLA also freed a French priest, Jean-Marie la Vacher, as well as an Irish and Sudanese priest whose names Akol would not disclose. All four had been held in what Akol described as protective custody since the SPLA captured Torit Feb. 26. They were held outside Torit, but Akol would not say where.

Egyptian police arrest activists

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police arrested four fundamentalist Muslim activists during an election rally in an industrial suburb of Cairo, security sources said Tuesday night. The four men — a doctor, a lawyer, a steel worker and a graduate student — were charged with sedition after handing out leaflets at the rally Monday in the suburb of Helwan in support of the Muslim Brotherhood. The sources said the pamphlets called for the introduction of Islamic laws, demonstrations against economic austerity measures and an end to emergency regulations. About 1,500 fundamentalists have been arrested over the last two months. Most are held under emergency laws, in force since the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

Belgians jailed for kidnapping Kuwaiti

NORTHAMPTON, England (R) — Two Belgians were jailed for six years by a British court Tuesday for their part in the kidnapping of a Kuwaiti millionaire who was held for a ransom of \$2.6 million. Danielle Peumans, 42, and Eddie Doncet, 31, snatched Waleed Al Humaidi from a house near Northampton in central England, subdued him with drugs and an electronic stun gun and chained him to a bed for five days in London, the prosecution said. Peumans' boyfriend, William Schroyens, was said to have masterminded the kidnap after failing to recover \$2.6 million he alleged Humaidi, a 38-year-old businessman, owed him from diamond deals. Peumans, a secretary from Brussels, and Schroyens' brother-in-law Doucet, an Antwerp diamond dealer, admitted kidnapping Humaidi last September, but denied plotting to demand money with menaces. Schroyens, who returned to Belgium while Humaidi was still being held, was expected to appear in court in Belgium for his part in the kidnapping. When police swooped on the London house, they arrested Peumans and found Doucet hiding in a cupboard. Humaidi told police that with the stun gun held to the back of his neck he was ordered to record a message to his family asking for the money to be paid into a bank in Spain. The money was never paid.

Iran hangs 10 more drug smugglers

NICOSIA (AP) — Ten drug traffickers convicted by Islamic courts were publicly hanged in four Iranian cities Tuesday, bringing the number of such hangings in the past 11 days to 104, Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said that "the professional drug smugglers" were hanged in the cities of Zahedan, Kerman, Hamadan and Ferdows. Tuesday's hangings raised to 662 the number of drug-related executions that Iranian authorities say they have carried out since they launched a nationwide anti-narcotics crackdown last December.

Iran to merge ministries

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's parliament Tuesday voted to merge two ministries which provide logistical support for the regular army and the Revolutionary Guards. The Iranian news agency IRNA said the bill, which still needs final approval, involved only the ministries and did not cover the forces themselves. The Revolutionary Guards corps grew from a small militia formed to protect the 1979 revolution into a fully-fledged military organisation beside the regular army during the eight-year war against Iraq. The International Institute for Strategic Studies estimates the strength of the guards at more than 250,000 and the regular army at more than 350,000.

Turkey tests new rabies vaccine

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has been chosen to test a rabies vaccine for stray dogs which experts hope will help eliminate the killer viral disease in developing countries. "Rabies has always been a problem in Turkey but we hope the new bait vaccine for stray dogs will help to eradicate it," the agriculture ministry's director general, Ersin Yilmazluoglu, told Reuters in an interview. If successful, the pellet vaccine distributed on rubbish heaps ravaged by dogs could end the enforced slaughter of thousands of stray animals in Turkish cities every year. The 3½-year trial programme costing about \$55,000 is organised by the World Health Organisation collaborating centre for rabies surveillance and research in West Germany.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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PROGRAMME ONE

15:30	Koran
15:45	Programme review
16:30	Children programme
16:35	News for the Deaf
16:40	Local programme
16:45	"Alph"
16:55	Health programme
20:00	Programme review
20:30	News in Arabic
21:30	Local series
21:40	Programme review
21:45	Arabic play
23:00	News in Arabic
18:00	La Chancé Aux Chansons
18:30	News in French
19:15	Tante
19:45	News in Hebrew
20:00	Varieties
20:30	News in Arabic
21:10	Bill Cosby Show
22:00	Beauty and the Beast
22:20	Feature film: "Streets of Justice"
22:30	Fair
22:35	(Sunrise) Dula
12:32	Dhahr
16:13	Azr
19:36	Maghreb
21:05	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieifish Tel. 810740

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Her Majesty Queen Noor has always shown deep and genuine interest in improving the quality of life of Jordanians everywhere, especially in rural areas. Her Majesty's efforts require the support of all Jordanian people, official and otherwise. Photo by George Crystal.

Dry grounds; every drop helps

On Tuesday Her Majesty Queen Noor visited Sama Sirhan in the Mafraq Governorate and at the town's social development centre handed certificates to 110 women who received training in sewing, knitting and typing. Jordan Times reporter Najwa Najjar accompanied the Queen and filed the following report:

AMMAN — As you drive along the newly completed two-lane highway from Amman to Mafraq, what seems to be an endless desert is suddenly interrupted by clusters of small villages with houses mostly made of cement. Driving through the Governorate of Mafraq, small fields of olive trees become a predominant feature — what director of development in Mafraq, Mahmoud Al Shboul, calls "the development of olives."

Two other women whose husbands are unemployed have barely been able to make ends meet. They are not eligible for aid from any of the 19 charitable or voluntary societies in the governorate because each of them has a son in the army.

Jameelah Mutlaa is a 24-year-old mother of three. Her husband, 60, is unemployed. Jameelah approached the charitable organisations, but was turned away because her step son from her husband's first wife is in the army.

"My husband's son does not have to give us money and he does not. I can't work because of my children. I have to go around begging so I can feed my children." Her children are aged five, four and one and a half years.

Taleha Alayan Tafi from the village of Jaber also has a son in the army. While she might sound luckier than Jameelah, in that she receives her son's salary of JD 16, she faces harsher conditions. Her 10-member family lives in a two-room house without doors, no heating and no bathroom. Her 70-year-old husband is unemployed and sick and three of her daughters are physically handicapped. The plastic legs her daughters once wore, have broken, "and now they just crawl around in the dirt."

The 42-year-old mother cannot afford taking her daughters to hospital. The other children go to school. She feeds her family with tomatoes, squash and bread — the diet of most of the villagers interviewed by the Jordan Times.

Many mothers complained that they could not feed their children milk, nor could they afford meat, chicken, cheese or labneh.

Aminah Faris, 40, is a farmer. She supports seven children after

from Mugheir Al Sirhan is a mother of six girls whose ages range from two months to eight years. Sabha said she could not afford to buy a box of milk that costs JD 1.250 and last only for four days.

She has had no income for the past three months after her husband was imprisoned for signing a JD 400 uncovered cheque. The amount was for medical treatment for the husband's back.

One 13-year-old, Abeer Falah, was lucky enough to have an operation at the King Hussein Medical Centre five months ago to remove the blue water from her eyes. But because she lives eighty kilometres away from Amman it was difficult for her to continue to receive proper treatment and thus developed eye trouble.

Despite the fact that she can barely see, she attends school. She admits that she has not learned to write due to her poor eyesight.

According to the Arabic teacher Sh'ali Al Bali, classrooms are overcrowded, some hold up to 40 students, ventilation is poor, the floors are often uneven, the library is in the teachers' lounge and goats and sheep graze outside the school windows.

Moreover, Um Al Asr school only has classes up to the third elementary grade, after which students must attend a school in Mafraq. This primarily affects the female students.

Parents won't allow them to continue their schooling because they do not want them to leave the village, which is very unfortunate since the girls' standard is very high, Sh'ali said. She says that the parents are asking for another school to be built in their village.

The Jordan Times visited the kindergarten at the Mafraq's Ministry of Social Development's Centre. Thirty three well-nourished children sat closely to one another behind 20 desks. Despite the colourful caricatures painted on the walls, this reporter could not help, but notice the yellowish walls, the large tear in one of the two windows' screen, the thinning curtains, the weathered blackboard and the electricity boxes within the children's grasp.

To help the centre, Queen Noor on Sunday donated a video, a computer, a number of children's books, indoor and outdoor games including slide and swings.

Additional help was requested from the sewing and knitting department of the centre. Proudly exhibiting the sweaters, outfitts, dresses and cushion holders made by the girls during their six month training course, trainee Hind Al Nimri pointed out that the centre would be able to train more girls if the four sewing machines presently used were increased and if trico machines would be included. The interview with two females, who have graduated from the course, indicated that the course had proven to be worthwhile.

"Not only have I learnt to stitch bedouin and Palestinian designs, but I have saved a lot of money," said 'Atha'a.

Fayez also noted the economic savings, but she asked whether it would be possible for the centre to provide materials, thread and yarn.

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation has already drawn a plan to improve living standards and to enhance community work. The plan includes:

- improving the processing and the marketing of olives, olive oil and pickled olives;

- improving the processing of seasonal vegetables;

- introducing the cultivation of medical herbs, and herbs packaging;

- improving the quality of training at the community centre, including the purchase of new sewing and knitting machines;

- improving management at all community centres;

- conducting an awareness campaign.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ The May art exhibition at Al Wasl Art Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- ★ A photography exhibition by Atib Atwan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Diana Shamounki at the Petra Bank Gallery.
- ★ An archaeological exhibition entitled "The Treasures of Hasma Desert" at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by three North African artists at Abdil Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- ★ The annual exhibition of the Nazareth School students at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmad Abu Othman at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings, educational facilities, computers, scientific laboratories and handicrafts at the Yarmouk University Model School.
- ★ A photography exhibition entitled "Amman Under King Hussein's Reign" at the North Roman Catholic School, Zarqa.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Klara Matschokibian at the Petra Bank Gallery (opens Friday).

THEATRE

- ★ A children's Arabic play entitled "Tambour's Shoes" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.

EVENING

- ★ Scandinavian evening with summer hymns and folk songs at the Lutheran Good Shepherd Church, opposite Umm Al Summaq municipality — 7:00 p.m.

Princess Basma visits Maan, Wadi Al Seer

MAAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma visited Maan Governorate Wednesday and inspected a number of charitable and voluntary centres operated by the Jordanian Save the Children Fund (JSCF).

Princess Basma who is president of the fund was briefed on the activities of the various sections which include computer training for children, weaving and knitting and a kindergarten.

Princess Basma later chaired a meeting for the society staff and reviewed the needs of the centre in terms of facilities for training and services in various areas.

The Maan Centre is one of nine JSCF's centres around the Kingdom which are being operated in cooperation with the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF).

These centres hold periodic training courses, seminars and other activities to promote rural development and to encourage the involvement of rural women in activities that would help improve the standard of living of their own families.

Later Princess Basma attended a ceremony for the graduation of 23 female trainees from the dress making workshop at the Wadi Al Seer training centre, run by a local charitable society.

It was announced later that the Princess has accepted to be the honorary president of the society. Princess Basma distributed diplomas to the graduates and voiced appreciation for the efforts of those in charge of the vocational training programmes.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, honouring volunteer physicians Swee Chai Ang (first table, on left) and Pauline Cutting (right) during a dinner at the Amman Plaza Hotel Tuesday night also attended by Her Highness Princess Sarvath (Petra photo)

Regent honours volunteer doctors

Praise be to the brave and noble

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (I.T.) — A power station set up at Al Risha area where huge reserves of natural gas had been discovered will be inaugurated Thursday as part of the Kingdom's celebrations of Independence Day, according to an official statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

For its electric generation, the station will use natural gas from Al Risha fields estimated to hold 30 billion cubic feet.

According to Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Mohamad Said Arafa experimental tests on the power station started two months ago and it is estimated that when in full operations, the Risha power station can supply 15 per cent of the total requirements of electric power in Jordan.

He said that the JEA has installed two power generating units at Kharranach where the new radio transmitter station was set up and the other at Al Risha both of which are fuelled by natural gas from the gas fields at Risha.

First gas-run power station opens today

AMMAN (I.T.) — A power station set up at Al Risha area where huge reserves of natural gas had been discovered will be inaugurated Thursday as part of the Kingdom's celebrations of Independence Day, according to an official statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

According to Petra, the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) which is charged with prospecting for oil and gas in the Risha area near the Iraqi border has found natural gas in commercial quantities in at least two wells. The NRA and the JEA are coordinating their efforts to exploit the natural gas for power generation, and feasibility studies had been completed in this respect, Arafa noted.

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ACC takes to the field

CAIRO (Petra) — Senior officials in charge of youth affairs in Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen, the four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries, will hold a meeting very soon to discuss the establishment of a higher ministerial body to coordinate cooperation in sports and youth affairs in the four countries, Minister of Youth Awdah Khleifat announced in Cairo Wednesday.

The minister was speaking to reporters following a meeting with Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sidki with whom he reviewed Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation in youth affairs and the implementation of a bilateral agreement in this respect.

The minister said, was the initial step towards promoting cooperation in youth affairs not only between

Jordan and Egypt, but also with the rest of the ACC countries, Khleifat noted.

During his current stay in Cairo, Khleifat met with North Yemen's minister of youth and discussed with him sports and youth affairs, and the Yemeni minister voiced his country's desire to conclude a separate cooperation agreement with Jordan.

Khleifat toured youth and sports installations and centres in Egyptian cities and was briefed on their activities. He said that Jordan will benefit from Egyptian experience and expertise in youth and sports fields.

Khleifat said he met with the head of the Kuwaiti sports organisation and head of the Kuwaiti Olympic committee to discuss cooperation with the Jordanian Olympic Committee.

Baghdad, Amman twin

AMMAN (Petra) — The mayors of Baghdad and Amman Khaled Abdulla Mu'men Rashid and Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh Wednesday endorsed a draft agreement for twinning the Jordanian and Iraqi capitals, paving the way for a greater measure of cooperation between the two cities in municipal affairs.

Once formally adopted by the two sides, the document will be finally signed by the two capital's municipal councils, according to a statement issued here following a meeting between the two mayors.

Rashid lauded the strong brotherly relations between Jordan and Iraq, and pledged continued efforts to promote cooperation between the two capitals.

Later, Rawabdeh accompanied Rashid and his delegation on a tour of a number of municipality installations and tourist and archaeological sites and places of interest.

The exhibition will remain open until May 31.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CONGRATULATIONS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has cabled congratulations to Argentine President Raúl Alfonsín on national day anniversary. In his cable Prince Hassan wished the Argentinian president good health and the people further progress and prosperity (Petra).

EDUCATION: Education Minister Dr. Abdulla Nsour Wednesday discussed with educational officials in Baq'a basin area matters related to the progress and development of the educational process.

He called for the creation of a strong generation capable of confronting challenges and preserving national gains (Petra).

SEMINARS: Six educational seminars on the danger of smoking have been held in a number of Amman secondary schools on the occasion of the world anti-smoking day which falls on May 31. The seminars explained the harmful and dangerous effects of smoking on human body and urged for teaching the future generations and students the principles of healthy life (Petra).

INSPECTION: Civil Defence Department Director Lieutenant-General Khaled Tarawneh Wednesday inspected civil defence centres in Irbid Governorate and familiarised himself with preparations underway to deal with emergency incidents particularly in summer time. Tarawneh also opened a civil defence centre at the Camp of Martyr Azmi Mufti (Petra).

FESTIVAL: The Ministry of Culture and Information will hold a festival Saturday at the Royal Cultural Centre on the occasion of Jordan's Independence Day. A book exhibition will be held on the sidelines of the festival (Petra).

Ministers, Soviet friendship team discuss tourism, transport

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian-Soviet cooperation in tourism was discussed Wednesday at a meeting between Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat and the president of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society on the one hand and a visiting team representing the Soviet-Jordanian Society on the other.

Promoting cooperation in tourism and the exchange of expertise in this field in implementation of a 1979 agreement were discussed at the meeting which also touched on bilateral cooperation in economic fields.

Later, the visiting Soviet delegation met with Minister of Culture and Information

Nasouh Al Majali with whom they exchanged views on bolstering bilateral relations and cooperation in cultural fields. Majali praised the society for its endeavour to bolster cultural ties between Jordan and the Soviet Union.

The team which includes officials from the Soviet merchant fleet later met with Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Hikmat Khammash to discuss cooperation in maritime shipping and the prospect of concluding a bilateral agreement in this field.

Services to Soviet ships docked at Aqaba and goods shipped in transit from Jordan to the

Keilani, Borner discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Swiss Ambassador to Jordan Harald Borner Wednesday voiced his government's keenness on promoting its ties with Jordan in all fields to increase its cooperation with the Kingdom in water-related affairs.

The ambassador who made the statement during a meeting with Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani.

Keilani and the ambassador reviewed Jordanian projects being implemented with the help of Swiss companies, including the Dead Sea-Ghor Al Safi road. Borner said Switzerland will be ready to help develop the Dead Sea coast and set up a tourist resort there.

For his part, the minister briefed the ambassador on water and sewerage and irrigation projects in the Kingdom and explored the possibility of involving Swiss firms in implementing the Al Wahde Dam which is being

set up on Yarmouk River across the common border with Syria. He also sounded the views of the ambassador about obtaining Swiss technical assistance especially in vocational training and higher education in a number of

specialisations needed by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation for its projects in the Kingdom.

Keilani voiced Jordan's appreciation of Switzerland's help to Jordan specially in water projects.

He said that Jordan will welcome a procedure by which Soviet ships can transport Jordanian phosphate to the Soviet Union after delivering goods at the port of Aqaba. The Soviet team said that Soviet ships will be willing to transport Jordanian goods to Europe, Japan and the Far East and to import phosphate for the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union they said import 2.5 million tonnes of phosphates from various countries of the world.

Soviet Union were other topics on the agenda.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation Established 1971

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Burying differences for common cause

THE tête-à-tête meeting between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi in Casablanca Wednesday can be described as nothing less than historic simply because it was an encounter few in the Arab World would have expected, given the nature of the long-running conflict between Cairo and Tripoli. No doubt, it reflected the mood of reconciliation and realisation of the need for Arab unity that characterised the Arab summit. It raises cautious hopes among the Arabs that their leaders gathered in the Moroccan city are moving forward with a sense of purpose and seriousness. At the same time, there is little that warrants overt Arab jubilation since there is no definite commitment from either leader that their talks signalled a long-term rapprochement. But, the very fact that they could sit down and discuss things is a most welcome sign that the ice has been broken between the two leaders.

By the same token, let us also not overlook that the task that confronts the Casablanca summit is not way easy; issues may be few but implications are too many. But, the Egyptian-Libyan mini-summit, which followed an era of on-again-off-again peace offerings from both sides in over 12 years, was indeed an excellent omen and should serve as a clear message to the rest of the Arab World. Does anyone in the Arab World or outside needs any reminder that the hitherto poised political hatchet between Libya and Egypt was so sharp and touched the basic fibre of the common Arab identity of the two countries that other inter-Arab differences looked almost blunted? Quiet simply, if Mubarak and Qadhafi could bury their differences for the sake of the much-needed united voice that the Arab World needs to address the international community at this crucial point in time, then it is only reasonable to see it incumbent upon any other Arab leader nursing differences with another to seek out common ground and follow the example of the Egyptian and Libyan leaders.

Dialogue is the key to settle differences and bury hatchets and rivalries to accommodate each other. It is a concept accepted and entertained by the Arabs throughout history. We hope the Casablanca summit will honour this traditional Arab commitment and thus enable the Arab leaders to arrive at unanimous decisions and actions that serve the cause of peace in the Middle East and welfare and security of their people.



Waleed — Al Dustour

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Jordanian dailies on Wednesday continued their discussion of the Casablanca summit meeting, hailing it as a new opportunity for the Arab leaders to fulfil the aspirations of their peoples. Al Ra'i daily said that the meeting in Casablanca is attracting the attention of non-Arab countries as well, citing messages sent to King Hassan by the Soviet leader and the American president. The paper said that the summit is considered as an international event since pan-Arab solidarity and joint Arab actions will no doubt have their real weight in international politics. The Arab heads of state do not only have to mend their fences and discuss issues of concern to the Arab World at large, but they ought rather to take steps that can help bring about peace in the Middle East and gain more world support for the Palestinian cause, said the paper. The Arab masses, the paper, added, expect from their leaders to take action not just to take decisions and to undertake meaningful steps to implement decisions at all necessary levels.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily dwells on the summit which he says is busying itself with peace in the Middle East, peace in Lebanon and peace in the Gulf region. Mahmoud Rimawi says that with the participation of Egypt in the summit, the Arabs should feel stronger than ever before, and ought to take a more solid stand vis-à-vis the three issues. They could call on Iran in one voice to respond favourably to the call of a just and lasting peace, and to help bring about stability in the Gulf region, the writer notes. Iraq which come out victorious from the eight year war, ought to be given all-out support in its stand and its continued struggle to achieve a lasting peace. The Arab masses, the writer says, expect the leaders to take practical steps to help settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and to bring about peace and reconciliation to war-torn Lebanon. He says that the Arab people look with greater hope towards the future, now that all the Arabs are meeting under the umbrella of the Arab League.

Al Dustour daily said that all indications point to the fact that the Casablanca summit is bound to achieve great success in view of the participation of all Arab states except for Lebanon which is involved in a civil strife. The paper said that the meeting in Casablanca is indeed a major world event since its results will have a great bearing on the future whether in the Middle East or in the Gulf region. The paper said that the Arabs have a real interest to end their differences and forge ahead with greater determination towards peace and stability. It said that the cohesion among the four-member Arab Cooperation Council and the reconciliation among Arab leaders at the summit should pave the way for a successful end.

Palestinians for fair elections

By Bassam Abu Sharif

THE Palestine Liberation Organisation stands firmly for democracy and freedom. This is why it supports the holding of elections in the West Bank and Gaza to choose representatives freely and democratically.

Elections — the opportunity to choose their own representatives — would spark enthusiasm among the Palestinian people. But Palestinians are in favour of a truly democratic choice, not a sham democracy.

The only genuine form of democracy is that practised freely without restrictions, threats or any form of intimidation. That is not possible on the West Bank or in Gaza today, where any gathering, even of only five people, is broken up with bullets. Nor is it possible while Palestinians who try to practise their right to freedom of expression are liable to prosecution. Under the rules of occupation, enforced by the Israeli army, it is illegal for Palestinians to engage in political activity or even express their national feelings and beliefs.

Another condition for free democratic choice is a set of rules which safeguard those elected as well as the results of this choice. History shows tragic examples of the eradication of the results of democratic elections in the wake of army intervention. Panama is

the most recent case that comes to mind. The Panama army brutally annihilated democracy and election results.

In occupied Palestine, the events were even more tragic. In 1976, the PLO agreed to elections for the West Bank municipal councils. Of the 116 candidates the Palestinians elected, 96 were PLO supporters. Israelis tried to assassinate three mayors: Bassam Shaka'a, Karim Khalaf and Ibraham Attawil.

Shaka'a's legs were amputated after Israeli occupiers planted a bomb in his car. Khalaf lost his foot when a bomb exploded in the car he was driving. He later died of gangrene. Attawil escaped death when he discovered an explosive device in his car.

Two other mayors, Mohammad Milhem and Fahd Kawasmeh, were deported to Jordan. Israeli occupation forces then removed most of the elected mayors, including all the PLO supporters elected by the people.

Now the situation is even more dangerous. Israeli soldiers have been deployed in the streets of cities in the West Bank and Gaza for 18 months using live ammunition against men, women and children demanding freedom and democracy.

These events demonstrate that unless a neutral force is present, the Israeli army will repeat the same behaviour. This conclusion

is supported by the words of Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, and Yitzhak Rabin, the defence minister.

Rabin told the daily Ha'aretz on April 21: "We will remove any elected Palestinian who declares loyalty or affiliation to the PLO." Shamir informed Yediot Acharonot, Israel's leading daily newspaper: "We don't need America's help to carry out the elections. We can control the whole process. We will not talk to the PLO. We have nothing to talk about with the PLO. And if the elected Palestinians will not abide by the rules of the game, we will cancel everything and return to the previous situation." Such statements have been repeated by Shamir and his cabinet colleagues.

Shamir is not denying Palestinians their right to free choice and democracy; he is just announcing that if they make the wrong choice it will not be respected.

The intifada has shown that the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza are not "pro-PLO": they are the PLO. This has been demonstrated as well to Dennis Ross, the envoy of the American secretary of state, James Baker, by the group of Palestinians who met him in Jerusalem. This is why the PLO is not afraid of the results of free and democratic elections. This is why the Israelis are afraid of those same results.

What Shamir is proposing clearly contradicts not only the principles of democracy and freedom upheld by the free world, but also with the democratic principles of Israel itself.

A package deal in the Middle East is the only path to global peace in the region. The Palestinians seek a settlement that will put an end to bloodshed in the Middle East. They seek a comprehensive peace, not a truce. They are seriously committed to this goal while Shamir and his government still cling to the same old expansionist dreams. The Israeli proposal for elections in the West Bank and Gaza is a trick aimed at ending the intifada and at legitimising Israeli occupation there.

President Bush asked the PLO and Israel to reach a mutually acceptable formula on the issue of elections. This is important if we wish to keep the peace process moving forward in the Middle East. But the crucial point is this: President Bush emphasised that Israeli occupation of Gaza and the West Bank must come to an end.

Herein lies the key issue. It is only on this basis that steps toward peace will be negotiable, and only on this basis can the final status of the West Bank and Gaza be clarified. The end of Israeli occupation is what the

armed settlers should not be in any position to hinder or endanger voters. The elections should be monitored and observed internationally to guarantee freedom of choice and protection of those elected.

An interim period under international or multilateral auspices. During this transitional period, the Palestinian legislative body will elect an executive. That executive body will select a team to negotiate with Israel. The negotiations can begin on internal issues but must consider matters of substance that concern a comprehensive settlement such as borders and water.

Preparations should begin for the convocation of an active, well-constructed international peace conference that will be convened on the basis of United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338 and the Palestinians' right to self-determination. The international peace conference should be convened within an internationally assured period of time that takes into consideration the deplorable and painful conditions being endured by the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza. All parties concerned in the Middle East conflict can raise any question to be discussed or negotiated.

The PLO wants a comprehensive peace that will safeguard the future of the coming generations, both Palestinian and Israeli — The Times, London.

Papandreu fights for political life in June

By Patrick Quinn
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Premier Andreas Papandreu, swept into power eight years ago promising radical change, is battling for his political survival.

As he prepares for elections June 18, the 70-year-old leader is beset by allegations of widespread corruption among senior members of his ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) and accusations that he failed to implement many of the reforms he espoused when first elected in 1981.

But friends and foes alike say Papandreu is far from beaten, still retaining the oratorical flair and personal appeal that gave him 48 per cent of the popular vote in 1981 and 46 per cent in 1985.

Papandreu, a former U.S. citizen who has accused the United States of trying to undermine his political career, is banking on support from Greece's rural areas to give him the boost he needs to make up lost ground. His socialist policies have had more success in the countryside than in the cities.

"Socialism, democracy, patriotism, peace; these were the goals of the popular movement in our country. Pasok continues this popular movement today. Our enemy is not the left, it is the right," Papandreu told thousands of supporters at a recent rally in the working-class suburb of Peristeri.

But opposition parties claim Papandreu has ignored many of the accusations against him and tried instead to polarise the electorate.

To attract support from leftist voters, he has promised to submit any agreement on the future of four U.S. military bases here to a national referendum. Negotiations on the bases have been postponed until after next month's elections.

"He wants to keep the people who are leaving his ranks, people who are progressive and left-wing as well as leftist voters," said Harilaos Florakis, leader of the Soviet-oriented Greek Communist Party.

Florakis has joined forces with the Eurocommunist Greek left to form the left coalition, which they hope will draw enough disaffected Socialists to play an important role in the balloting.

Both parties lost much of their traditional support when Pasok first came to power espousing a heady mixture of Socialist reform and rabid anti-Americanism.

But economic problems and a seesaw foreign policy have eroded popular support for the Socialists.

Greece's response to international terrorism also has angered some of the country's NATO allies. Last December, the government freed and put on a plane to Libya a Palestinian allegedly wanted by Italy for a 1982 bomb attack against Rome's main synagogue that killed a child. There also have been repeated delays in extraditing another suspected terrorist to the United States.

Allegations of involvement in a multimillion-dollar scandal surrounding fugitive Greek banker George Koskotas and a controversial affair with a woman half his age have tested the premier's appeal.

Newspapers have jumped on the affair with Dimitra Liani, 35. Nude pictures of the former air-

line hostess regularly appear on tabloid front pages.

"I knew this would have a cost. But it was not a passing thing, it was a relationship, it was a way of life," he recently told a Greek newspaper in a rare interview.

Koskotas fled in November after being indicted in a \$200-million fraud, forgery and embezzlement scandal.

The chairman of the Bank of Crete, arrested in the United States and jailed pending an extradition hearing, has alleged that Papandreu and other senior Socialist officials were given millions of dollars in payoffs and authorised the looting of his bank.

Papandreu, in turn, has accused the CIA and the "American establishment" of trying to orchestrate his political demise.

Papandreu was a U.S. citizen for 20 years and taught economics at American universities.

The main conservative opposition New Democracy Party, led by longtime Papandreu's rival Constantine Mitsotakis, has been hammering away at the government's handling of the Koskotas scandal since it first surfaced more than eight months ago. Two leftist Greek terrorist organisations have called on voters to boycott the elections or cast invalid ballots to protest the scandal.

Although New Democracy leads Pasok by about 7 percentage points in recent public opinion polls and is favoured to win a majority in the 300-member, single-chamber parliament, political analysts feel Mitsotakis' lack of charisma may help Pasok in the elections.

It stems from Mitsotakis' failure to beat Papandreu in the 1985 elections and his alleged involvement in a series of political intrigues in the mid-1980s that Socialists claim paved the way for

the 1967-74 military dictatorship.

Greece's external debt reached nearly \$18 billion and inflation was running at 14 per cent at the end of 1988, triple the European Common Market average.

But while Papandreu's generous allowances to farmers and the construction of hospitals in remote provinces strained the treasury, they are expected to help the Socialists.

"We are going into these elections with two Greeks. The Greeks of the provinces and the Greeks of the large urban areas," respected Athens columnist Panos Loukatos wrote recently.

The government's failure to deliver on a promise to modernise the health and education systems could hurt Papandreu in Athens, home to nearly half of Greece's 10 million residents.

Papandreu's handling of foreign affairs has been laced with a pragmatic streak that has embittered some allies but not completely alienated them.

He has not carried out campaign pledges calling for the removal of U.S. bases from Greece, along with withdrawal from NATO and the EEC. In 1983, Papandreu signed a five-year accord to keep four U.S. military installations here.

The only sticking point in the current 17-month-old bases talks is Greece's insistence that Washington provide assurances that it will help Greece solve some of its longstanding disputes with NATO ally Turkey. They have been at odds over military and airspace control of the Aegean Sea, its seabed mineral rights and the divided eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus.

Papandreu said in the recent interview that Greece must remain in NATO and the EEC "because it is in the interests of our nation." He said NATO serves to keep neighbouring Turkey at bay.

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The government has been careful not to make martyrs out of them by putting them in jail," one senior Western diplomat said. "But they are clearly deterred.

BUCHAREST — An increasingly rough war of nerves is being waged in Romania.

It pits Western diplomats and politicians seeking to bolster human rights by contacting dissidents against local security forces determined to stop them.

The undeclared war began earlier this year when Western countries, particularly the 12 European Community members plus the United States and Canada, decided to take the offensive after Bucharest ignored repeated pleas to respect human rights.

A Belgian politician was beaten up, a Western ambassador was manhandled, another diplomat was ordered into a police car and others have been turned away as they tried to deliver messages or make contact with prominent Romanian dissidents.

"The situation is pretty tense," one senior Western diplomat in Bucharest told Reuters during a recent visit. "But the worrying thing is it could get worse."

Romania's autocratic leader Nicolae Ceausescu cut any remaining financial dependence on the West by announcing last month the country had repaid all its foreign debts.

Now there is concern that Ceausescu may feel he can crack down even harder on the country's small dissident community.

"He has already shown what he thinks of Western pressure by his latest crackdown," one Western diplomat said. "After paying off the debts he may be saying 'you can't touch me now'."

The swift repayment of Romania's \$11 billion debt, by throttling imports and exporting everything including food meant for its own population, was widely seen as a political rather than economic decision by a leadership "obsessed with independence," as one diplomat put it.

Last year Romania gave up its most favoured nation status in the United States, worth some \$250 million a year in trade and other

War of nerves in Romania

By Colin McIntyre
Reuter

benefits, after Washington linked its continuation to human rights improvements.

Criticism of Romania abroad began mounting last year after Ceausescu announced that

SEPT / SEPT

Ça n'est pas trop cher et ça peut rapporter gros

L'irrésistible attrait de la loterie

Au rythme de deux tirages

par mois,

pour une cagnotte de 25 000 dinars
la loterie jordanienne a peu à peu conquis
son droit de cité.

Bien que depuis 26 ans
ses bénéfices alimentent les caisses
des associations de bienfaisance,
les religieux lui reprochent toujours
d'encourager "l'argent facile".

Attendu, le dernier pas consacrant le retour de l'Egypte au sein de la famille arabe a été franchi dimanche, soit deux jours avant l'ouverture du SOMMET DE CASABLANCA. Le ministre égyptien des Affaires étrangères, Ismat Abdel Meguid, a en effet officiellement pris part à la réunion préparatoire du Conseil des ministres de la Ligue arabe. Hosni Moubarak devait lui succéder mardi, pour la première fois depuis le début de son mandat de chef d'Etat. Le président égyptien s'est ainsi retrouvé aux côtés en numéro un libyen, le colonel Qadhafi, et de son homologue syrien Assad. Ces deux derniers, encore réticents, il y a peu, à la réintégration du Caire, s'étaient d'ailleurs entretenus dimanche soir à Tripoli où était arrivé quelques heures auparavant le président algérien Chadli Benjedid. Selon les observateurs, ce chassé-croisé dans la capitale libyenne avait assurément pour objectif de convaincre Mouammar Qadhafi de faire le voyage à Casablanca.

Conférence des retrouvailles, le sommet convoqué par le souverain marocain Hassan II aura néanmoins brillé par l'absence de toute représentation libanaise. La guerre que se livrent les deux gouvernements ennemis de BEYROUTH n'a pas permis de parvenir à un compromis, fût-il de quarante-huit heures. Alors que les bombardements se poursuivent, notamment sur le « pays chrétien », les deux parties en conflit se sont bornées à adresser chacune un memorandum, appelant les pays arabes à « sauver le Liban », tout en exposant des thèses divergentes, pour ne pas dire incompatibles. Tandis que les chrétiens exigent la retrait de l'occupant syrien, Salim Hoss, soutenu par Damas, réclamait le départ du général Aoun. A moins d'un tour de magie qu'on attendait toujours hier soir, il était peu probable que le sommet de Casablanca arrive à consolider de façon satisfaisante la fragile « trêve arabe ».

Autre grand dossier à l'ordre du jour de la réunion des chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement arabes, la QUESTION PALESTINIENNE semblait devoir moins diviser les « pays frères ». Ils ont ainsi été sensibles à l'appel lancé par l'OLP pour que soit soutenu son initiative de paix et fermement rejeté le plan Shamir prononcé des élections dans les territoires occupés. La centrale palestinienne a également profité du sommet pour rappeler à tous que guère plus de 10% des 600 millions de dollars promis à Alger en 1988 lui sont effectivement parvenus. Plus grave, pour l'OLP elle-même, est sans doute la lutte sanglante vers laquelle s'acheminent Palestiniens et Israéliens. Vendredi dernier sept manifestants et un militaire ont été tués en Cisjordanie et à Gaza. Un durcissement que traduisait dimanche le communiqué de 40 de « direction unifiée » du soulèvement appelant à « l'exécution d'un colon ou d'un soldat pour chaque martyr tué ». Pour la première fois depuis le début de l'Intifada, en décembre 1987, certains manifestants ont remplacé cette semaine les pierres par des armes à feu. (D'après agences).

EN BREF

Libération. 13 personnes, dont une majorité d'étudiants, arrêtées à tire préventif après les sanguines manifestations d'avril dans le sud et l'est de la Jordanie, ont été libérées dimanche. Le ministre de l'intérieur avait déjà annoncé la libération, le 10 mai, de 55 détenus nés aux manifestations contre la vie chère. 59 personnes restent incarcérées pour le même motif.

Banque centrale. Le conseil des ministres jordanien a approuvé samedi la nomination de M. Mohammad Said Al-Naboulsi au poste de gouverneur de la banque centrale jordanienne, après la démission de M. Hussein Kassem liée aux émeutes contre la vie chère d'avril. M. Al-Naboulsi avait exercé les fonctions de ministre de l'économie en 1972, poste qu'il devait quitter en 1973 pour celui de la banque centrale jordanienne dont il a démissionné en 1985.

Journal. L'atelier journal du Centre culturel français (CCF) a sorti, mardi, le premier numéro de « CCF-infos ». Ce petit magazine de 10 pages a été entièrement rédigé par onze étudiants jordaniens francophones. Les journalistes en herbe consacrent l'essentiel de leurs articles à l'actualité du CCF.

Sondage. Les Français sont majoritairement pacifistes si l'on en croit un sondage publié par le quotidien français « Le Monde », lundi. Interrogés sur ce que la France devrait faire en cas d'invasion des forces du pacte de Varsovie, 56% optent pour une tentative de négociation sans entrer dans conflit militaire. Seulement 28% des Français pensent qu'il pourra y avoir une troisième guerre mondiale dans les prochaines années, alors que cela semble impossible pour 68% d'entre eux. Un sondage similaire réalisé en 1981 faisait apparaître deux fois moins d'optimistes. L'enquête révèle par ailleurs que 39% des Français craignent plus une agression militaire d'un pays arabe (37% citent l'Iran) que de l'URSS 20%.

Drogue. Un immense dirigeable va être prochainement construit par les Etats-Unis pour lutter contre les trafiquants de drogue qui échappent aux radars en volant en rase-mottes. Le Pentagone supervisera la construction de l'appareil de près de 130 mètres de long, soit le double des modèles classiques. Doté de puissants radars, il aura une autonomie de vol de plusieurs jours. Ce prototype unique au monde devrait être opérationnel en 1993.

Miss URSS. La nouvelle vogue soviétique pour les concours de beauté a connu dimanche sa consécration avec l'élection de la première Miss URSS. L'heureuse élue est une jeune moscovite de 17 ans qui est montée sur le podium après un véritable marathon. L'élection a alterné les défils, les questions impertinentes quoique sages, la diffusion de spots publicitaires ou d'un film sur l'élection de Miss Monde, ainsi que des danses très osées. On comprend pourquoi les détracteurs de l'élection y voient le « virus de l'Occident ».

Salon euro-Arabe. Un projet de salon euro-arabe du livre, qui réunira chaque année à partir de 1990 des « créateurs et professionnels du livre consacré au Maghreb, au pays arabe et à la civilisation de l'Islam, en toutes langues », vient d'être présenté à l'Institut du monde arabe (IMA) à Paris. Le commissaire général du salon est Pierre Bernard, directeur des éditions Sindbad. Le comité international de parrainage comprend notamment le poète Adonis, les écrivains Naghib Mahfouz, Mahmoud Messaadi, le professeur André Miquel, Edgardo Pisani, président de l'IMA et le prince Talal Ibn Abdul Aziz Al-Saoud.

Festival de Cannes. « Erreur de jeunesse » de Radovan Tadic, présenté dans la section « perspectives du cinéma français », et « Carac » de l'autrichien Michael Schottenberg, présenté dans la section « quinzaine des réalisateurs », ont obtenu dimanche à Cannes respectivement le prix de la jeunesse du film français et le prix de la jeunesse du film étranger. Décerné pour la première fois en 1982, ce prix est attribué par un jury de sept jeunes cinéphiles.

Squelette. Le squelette d'un homme enterré il y a 11 000 ans, vient d'être exhumé au Nigéria, près du village d'Isaran au sud-ouest du pays. Le squelette serait le plus ancien jamais découvert en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Mozart. Une boucle des cheveux de Mozart a été adjugée 18 000 dollars, vendredi lors d'une vente aux enchères chez Sotheby's à Londres. La précieuse boucle brune, placée sous verre avec une note d'authentification de la maîtresse du fils du musicien, Joséphine von Baroni-Cavalcado, est revenue au marchand d'art londonien Otto Haas.

Football. L'Olympique de Marseille (OM) a été sacré champion de France de football pour la cinquième fois, samedi, en battant Auxerre (2-1) lors de la 37ème et avant dernière journée de la compétition. Avec quatre points d'avance et un seul match à jouer, l'OM ne peut plus être rejoints par Paris-SG, tenu en échec sur le terrain de l'Ent. dernier au classement (0-0).



environ les deux tiers de mon salaire », avoue-t-il.

Passionné ou raisonnable, l'engouement pour les cinq chiffres de la chance assure en tout cas le succès financier de la loterie nationale, depuis sa création en février 1973.

« La vente de billets progresse régulièrement », souligne son directeur, Souhel Al-Hadid. Le phénomène s'est même amplifié ces dernières années ». La crise économique aidant. « Pour chaque tirage, nous fabriquons entre 80 000 et 100 000 billets, poursuit-il. Il nous en reste rarement plus de 10% sur les bras ».

En 1988, les Jordaniens ont ainsi déboursé plus de quatre millions de dinars, assurant à la

loterie un bénéfice net d'un million et demi, une fois payés ses deux cents salariés et réglés les frais d'imprimerie. A la différence de la loterie française, l'argent ne rentre pas dans les caisses de l'Etat. « Il est aussi distribué aux différentes organisations de l'Union générale des sociétés de bienfaisance (UGSB), dont nous faisons partie », précise Souhel Al-Hadid. Organisme indépendant, l'UGSB gère l'assistance financière aux handicapés, aux orphelins et aux nécessiteux dans l'ensemble du royaume.

L'objectif social de la loterie lui permet tant bien que mal de concilier jeu et morale. « Les gens savent que nous sommes au service des pauvres et que nous ne

cherchons pas à faire de profits », soutient son directeur. En témoigne selon lui le tirage spécial, en mars 1988, en faveur de l'Intifada. Malgré le prix élevé de 5 dinars, les billets sont partis comme des petits pains. « Nous avons pu envoyer 100 000 dinars aux associations de l'UGSB dans les territoires occupés. Malgré la rupture des relations administratives avec la Cisjordanie, nous continuons à leur réservé une partie des bénéfices, qui attend sur un compte en banque », explique Souhel Al-Hadid.

Mieux vaut la clarté

Si les Jordaniens affectionnent de plus en plus leur loterie, cette

dernière fait l'objet de nombreuses critiques pour son « incompatibilité » avec les principes de l'Islam. Principes qui se traduisent notamment par une chute sensible des ventes de billets pendant le mois de Ramadan. « L'argent facile est synonyme de tentation satanique », explique Fouad J. Al-Kayed, du ministère des Affaires religieuses. Les musulmans tentent d'expliquer pacifiquement aux gens que le jeu est contraire à la foi. Mais, ajoute-t-il, mieux vaut un jeu clairement autorisé que des paris clandestins comme ça se produisent dans certains pays islamiques ».

Soucieuse de se débarrasser de cette connotation immorale, la loterie nationale refuse de considérer son activité comme un « jeu ». « Les gens achètent un billet, autant pour soutenir les pauvres que pour gagner, soutient son directeur. Nous offrons également du travail à plus de cinq cents revendeurs ». L'UGSB ne s'occupe en effet que de l'impression des billets, qu'elle confie chaque année à l'imprimeur qui lui offre les prix les plus modestes. Les coupons sont ensuite mis en vente au siège de la loterie, par séries d'au moins mille coupons, au prix unitaire de 1, 60 dinar.

Intermédiaires russes

« Quiconque possède la nationalité jordanienne peut venir les acheter puis les proposer au public pour 2 dinars », explique Souhel Al Hadid. Rares sont cependant les candidats capables de débourser au moins 1 600 dinars cash, comme l'exige la loi. Le développement de la loterie, particulièrement à Amman qui compte plus de 85% des fans du

Majeda Marouf et Alain Remon.

L'archéologie jordanienne à Lyon

Mises au point

La 4ème conférence internationale d'histoire et d'archéologie de la Jordanie s'ouvre mardi prochain à Lyon, en France. Pendant six jours, 130 scientifiques de tous horizons feront le point sur leurs recherches. Le prince Hassan, promoteur de cette manifestation, se rendra dans l'ancienne capitale des Gaules pour l'inauguration.

« L'organisation de l'espace, de la préhistoire à nos jours », tel est le thème autour duquel s'articuleront les communications des quelque 130 participants à la 4ème conférence d'histoire et d'archéologie de la Jordanie. Du 30 mai au 4 juin, six jours d'expositions et débats ne seront pas de trop pour décrire l'évolution et les modifications des zones de peuplement dans la région durant plusieurs milliers d'années.

« C'est une des originalités de cette 4ème édition que de couvrir une période allant de la préhistoire à l'époque moderne », précise Jacques Seigne, architecte français responsable de la mission permanente de Jérash sous le nom d'archéologie au Proche-Orient (IFAO). Les intervenants hexagonaux connaissent bien la période puisqu'ils sont presque les seuls en Jordanie à remonter si loin dans le temps.

Parmi les 130 conférenciers, 66 dont 17 Jordaniens présenteront les résultats de leurs travaux au cours de communications longues.

Organisée à Lyon, la conférence s'organisera en 12 sessions correspondant aux 12 époques abordées et chacune sera suivie d'un débat d'une heure permettant aux participants de développer de véritables discussions. « C'est important pour nous de comparer nos résultats et de montrer le poids de notre travail, même s'il n'est pas toujours visible », commente Jacques Seigne.

Si la conférence s'adresse d'abord aux spécialistes, elle a aussi pour vocation de promouvoir l'archéologie auprès du grand public. « Lorsque le prince Hassan a créé la première conférence en 1980, son idée était de vulgariser l'archéologie et l'histoire du pays, rendues souvent rébarbatives par leurs auteurs techniques. Il voulait que les gens comprennent ce qui se passe autour d'eux », raconte Ghazi Bisheh, directeur du département des antiquités jordanien et qui sera lui aussi présent à Lyon. De fait, les communications du congrès seront relayées par des publications et des articles de presse.

« Depuis la première conférence en 1980 à Oxford, et grâce à celles d'Amman en 1983 puis de Tübingen (RFA) en 1986, la Jordanie est mieux connue des archéologues et historiens », poursuit Ghazi Bisheh. Pour preuve : le nombre des fouilles en Jordanie a doublé en 9 ans, passant d'une quinzaine à trente. « Nous ne sommes que les gardiens, et non les propriétaires exclusifs, du patrimoine jordanien », ajoute-t-il. Ces conférences démontrent.

« Cette conférence comporte un double avantage, explique

Jacques Seigne, la préparation des communications est l'occasion de faire une synthèse de nos travaux et de formuler de nouvelles hypothèses que l'on peut comparer à celles de nos confrères des différentes disciplines ». Cette année, l'organisation de la conférence prend plus en compte le rôle des débats. Les trois premières éditions alternent exposés et commentaires à un rythme très rapide. A Lyon, la conférence s'organisera en 12 sessions correspondant aux 12 époques abordées et chacune sera suivie d'un débat d'une heure permettant aux participants de développer de véritables discussions. « C'est important pour nous de comparer nos résultats et de montrer le poids de notre travail, même s'il n'est pas toujours visible », commente Jacques Seigne.

Quarante-quatre pays d'afrique, d'Europe, d'Asie, d'Océanie, d'Amérique et des Caraïbes « ayant en commun l'usage du français », participent depuis lundi à Dakar au troisième sommet de la francophonie. A l'ordre du jour de la réunion des chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement, qui doit s'achever demain soir : l'environnement, l'économie, l'éducation...

Lancé à Paris en février 1986, le mouvement francophone se porte bien. Selon le gouvernement français, le sommet de Dakar devrait d'ailleurs en apporter la preuve en faisant le bilan des projets adoptés il y a plus d'un an et demi lors de la conférence de Québec. 80% d'entre eux sont mis en oeuvre ou en passe de l'être. Présenté par Paris comme le sommet de la « consolidation », la conférence prioritaire par le président sénégalais, M. Abdou Diouf. L'Egypte, quant à elle, présente le projet de création d'une université internationale de langue française à Alexandrie, destinée à renforcer la coopération entre les mondes arabe et africain.

Les dépenses engagées pour ce troisième sommet atteignent 85 millions de francs, dont 60 sont alloués par la France et 25 par le Canada. (D'après agences).

Exposition

Souvenirs, souvenirs



Un dernier regard. Chargé de l'image graphique au centre culturel français depuis septembre 1987, Olivier Mittillod s'apprête à quitter la Jordanie. Un départ qui sera précédé d'une exposition que lui consacre le CCF à partir de samedi. « L'idée de départ consistait dans une simple rétrospective des soixante à soixante-dix affiches que j'ai créées pour le centre depuis mon arrivée », explique-t-il. Une vingtaine d'entre elles seront effectivement présentées. Mais là ne s'arrête pas le contenu de l'exposition. Professeur d'art appliqués, diplômé de l'Ecole normale supérieure de Cachan près de Paris, Olivier Mittillod a décidé d'y introduire un récit en quatre tableaux. « Il s'agit de quatre toiles de maîtres dont j'ai fait autant de décors dans lesquels les visiteurs pourront entrer », précise-t-il. En clair, Olivier les a « librement » reproduites sur d'immenses panneaux en carton, de quatre mètres de large sur plus de deux mètres de haut. Son astuce : avoir rendu les têtes des personnes amovibles, « pour que les gens puissent y glisser la leur et faire partie intégrante de la scène ». De fait, il vous sera permis, pendant quelques minutes, de devenir « La Liberté guidant le peuple » (d'après Delacroix), ou si le cœur vous en dit de prendre la place d'une jeune femme en tenue d'Eve dans le « Déjeuner sur l'herbe » de Manet ou encore de vos faire prêtre ou artiste dans deux œuvres de Courbet, « L'enterrement à Oran » et le célèbre « Atelier du peintre ». « J'ai souhaité glisser dans ces tableaux à la fois une forme d'irréverence à la vraie peinture et offrir au visiteur l'occasion de participer activement à l'exposition », conclut-il.

Rosana Schutte, Centre culturel français, 27 mai à 16h00.

Horizontalement.

1: jeux; 2: dieu dans la Seine; conjonction de coordination. C: on

y fait des études supérieures. Dr

prononcement; négatif; E: ex-

citation. F: offices religieux. G:

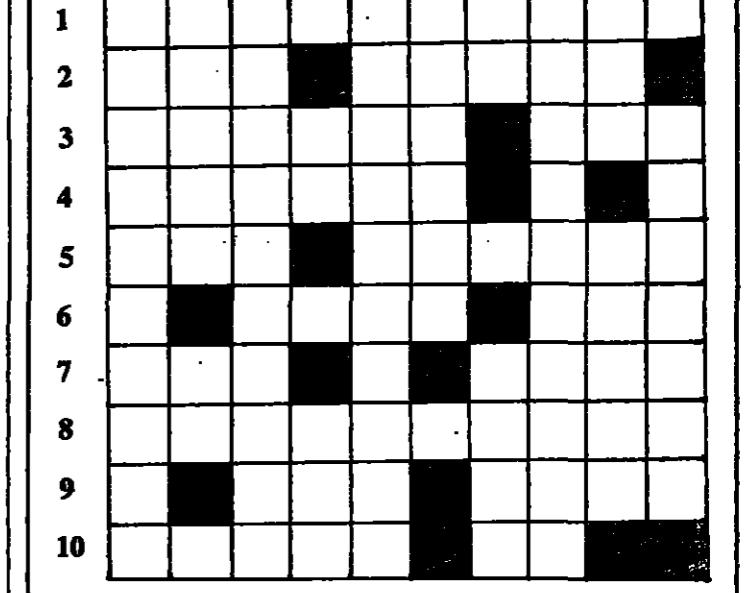
infinitif; touche. H: il est envahie

par les noisetiers. I: Trinité; Trinité;

passer sous silence. J: décapitées.

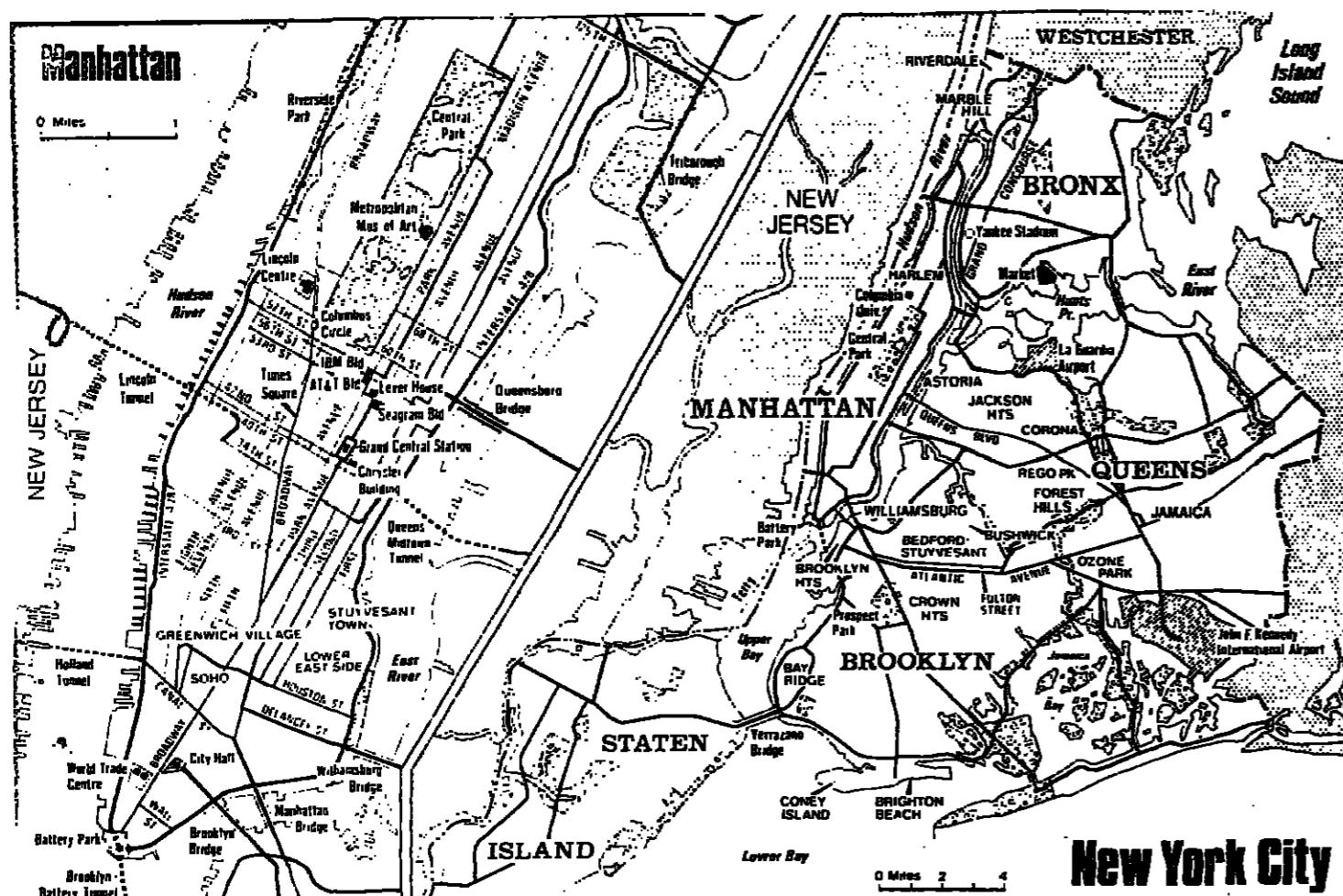
Mots croisés

Par Florence Montell



Verticalement.

A: vision. B: se jette dans la Seine; conjonction de coordination. C: on y fait des études supérieures. Dr pronon



Has 'Clockwork orange' arrived in paradise?

By Virginia Byrne and Lawrence Neumeister
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Eleven days after a central park jogger was raped and left for dead by a pack of marauding youths, David Bruskin stepped into the last car of a subway train because he didn't want his Piccolo music to bother anyone.

It was a mistake.

Two other people were in the car when he got on around 5:30 a.m. five stops later, at Times Square, they had an unwelcome company — more than a dozen youths, looking for trouble.

They found Bruskin.

Like swarming bees, the teenagers surrounded him, snatched his jacket, punched and bloodied his face, grabbed his wallet and broke his \$100 Piccolo "into smithereens."

Then they marched through the train, chime jutting out, eyes darting left and right.

One witness heard Bruskin his wallet, discarded after the teen-agers stripped it of \$115. But the 39-year-old teacher felt lucky to escape with just a gash over one eye that required three stitches.

He knew about the 28-year-old woman who was jumped by a gang of youths April 19 as she trotted through Central Park on her evening run.

She was dragged into the woods, beaten with a brick and a pipe, raped repeatedly and left to die, her blood draining into a mud puddle. After more than a week in a coma, she regained consciousness, but a full recovery is questionable.

Some authorities view these incidents as isolated extremes — the acts of a few city teen-agers who find strength and anonymity in numbers. Others say the "ultraviolence" perpetrated by youth gangs in the futuristic cult movie classic "a clockwork orange" has arrived in New York.

All agree something is very wrong — with these teen-agers, with the juvenile justice system, or both.

Usually, teen-agers join the loosely knit gangs spontaneously and have little more in common than age and a lust for excitement, police say.

They often strike just after school, wreak havoc for a few hours in binges of what some call "willing" and then disband.

Tourists are frequent targets; the head of the police department's midtown robbery squad once called them "walking statistics."

Tourists are often alone and vulnerable, wearing jewellery or carrying thick wallets. They are outnumbered by roving columns of teen-agers who have been known to parade through upscale stores, grabbing what they like.

Police recently beefed up patrols in the seedy Times Square area as part of an annual spring push to increase the number of officers there.

Last year, 622 robbery cases and 140 attempted robbery cases referred to family court involved two or more teens, and more than 100 cases of robberies, assaults and larcenies involved groups of five or more, said Peter Reinharz, chief prosecutor for the city law department's family court division.

Ineffectiveness of juvenile justice

"In light of the escalation and severity of the incidents, it appears that we're doing something wrong," Reinharz said.

Rita Kramer, author of "At a tender age: violent youth and

juvenile justice," noted the ineffectiveness of a juvenile justice system that was set up to handle wayward youths rather than young, hardened criminals.

She said many youths report having committed about 10 serious crimes for every one for which they are arrested.

"We're not doing a very good job of deterring or rehabilitating kids," said James Payne, a former probation commissioner now in private legal practice.

"They're not deterred and they're not cured."

Kramer and Payne cited another Central Park attack in 1984 when three youths, ages 12, 14 and 16, beat and raped a homeless woman. She survived, but police later learned the same youths had raped and killed another homeless resident of the park a month later.

The oldest two were tried as adults and convicted; the 16-year-old is serving 15 years to life in a state prison.

But the 12-year-old, identified as the ringleader, was sent to

Camp Tryon, an unlocked facility in upstate New York, for up to 18 months. Payne said the youth remained incarcerated through his 13th birthday but then escaped. He would be 17 now.

"He's out there somewhere and what he's doing is not much different than what he was doing before he was arrested," Payne asserted.

Reinharz said the system is too soft on children guilty of grisly crimes.

The 12-year-old who commits a homicide is going to get the same disposition as a 12-year-old who stole credit cards," he said.

Bruskin recalled his attackers were "so matter of fact about it. It was obvious they were used to what they were doing. They looked at my possessions as things they were entitled to."

With the laughter of three female members of the gang still ringing in his ears, Bruskin yanked the car's emergency cord, forcing the train to a halt.

The oldest two were tried as adults and convicted; the 16-year-old is serving 15 years to life in a state prison.

But the 12-year-old, identified as the ringleader, was sent to

out three or four members of the group that attacked him. One youngster had been miraculously transformed; in place of the tough glare and muscle-flexing march was the soft, wide-eyed demeanor of a child.

These youths were released.

They were members of the gang, but Bruskin said they were not among those who threw punches or robbed him.

Officers took away one boy Bruskin said was in the group. He was released when Bruskin said he wasn't positive he was the one who took his jacket.

One witness, Chris Russel, 28, recalled the horror of what he had seen.

"There were so many of them," he said. "They just came and started beating on him."

The other witness, Richard McMillan, 30, said he could feel danger as soon as the youths came into the car.

"He (Bruskin) didn't feel it because he was too happy playing it flute," McMillan said.

New Paris opera house readies for inaugural concert

By Marilyn August
The Associated Press

PARIS — The countdown has begun at the Opera Bastille.

Some 1,500 labourers are working double shifts to finish the gleaming glass and steel opera house that is scheduled to open July 13 — the Bicentennial anniversary of the French Revolution.

The high-tech musical complex, built on the square where revolutionaries stormed the Bastille prison July 14, 1789, is the attraction opera buffs hope will make Paris a more prominent music centre. But its birth is already mired in controversy.

The new opera is leaderless as workers prepare for the inaugural concert — billed as the centerpiece of the Bicentennial celebration.

Israeli fired

The government fired Israeli conductor Daniel Barenboim in January for his high fees and "elitist views" on opera, according to a statement made by President Francois Mitterrand's representative.

However, the post remains open long after the April 1 deadline French Culture Minister Jack Lang gave for naming a replacement.

The gala opening is equally plagued with controversy.

Less than two months before the curtain is to rise, opera officials have neither announced the full programme nor the orchestra, conductor or singers who will perform before Mitterrand, U.S. President George Bush and other leaders and luminaries.

The Opera Bastille, an expanse of polished granite, glass and stainless steel designed by Canadian architect Carlos Ott, is described by critics as an ocean liner in dry dock.

"Sophisticated means complicated, and this building isn't complicated," he said during a tour of the building. "It's very simple. It's a place where you have a lot of space."

Daily problems

"Here we don't have the daily

virtually no backstage, which meant that sets had to be built elsewhere, dismantled, brought in and assembled. The cost was staggering, and so were ticket prices.

Tickets at the Opera Bastille, which seats 2,700, are expected to cost \$40 at most, less than half that of the Palais Garnier, which will be devoted to ballet.

The building also has space for costumes, workshops and storage areas, connected directly to the main stage. There are three rehearsal rooms for the orchestra, two for ballet, two for the chorus, 16 studios for singers and 12 for musicians.

While backstage areas are still under construction, the main hall is nearly ready. On a recent visit, workmen were busy polishing granite pillars, washing windows, waxing hardwood floor and installing sleek black cushions.

Despite a glass ceiling and a white, black and gray colour scheme, the atmosphere is intimate, thanks, in part, to two tiers of graceful balconies reminiscent of Japanese pagodas.

Dittmann, says the hall's computer-analysed acoustics are excellent. Even the hall's chairs have been designed with acoustics in mind — there are small holes which allow the sound to pass through when they are empty.

A polystyrene joint under the building absorbs vibrations from the three metro lines that intersect under the Place de la Bastille.

"If that isn't enough, the subway cars themselves will be fitted with special rubber tires," he said.

"There are a few tourists who do a circuit from Dakar to the

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The rebel of the opera comes to Jordan

The theme is 'Love'

By Nelly Lama

AMMAN — In the same way as the "must" of Carter offers one an invaluable object, so does the Conservatory of Music under the aegis of the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation in cooperation with Gi Rho Ma offer us a "must" item that no music lover should miss.

The music, this time, belongs to the realm of opera and musicals. Arias will be sung by American Soprano Rosana Schutte accompanied by pianist Joseph Villadiego (on loan from Gi Rho Ma). The performance will take place at the Royal Cultural Centre Saturday, May 27 at 8:00 p.m.

Rosana Schutte was born in Zambiya, Africa, and raised in Afghanistan, Indonesia and Tanzania. She wonders whether her musical inclinations could have started with the influence of the rhythms of African drum-beats. That might explain her present good sense of rhythm.

"My house was full of all kinds of music, opera, musicals etc," she explains, "so I grew to love music. I was also affected by the Indonesian 'Gamalan' which is based on the oriental scale. Afghanian's music also has an oriental beat close to Arabic. But one of the most beautiful sounds that I have kept in my mind, is the Muezzin's call to prayer."

Rosana gave her first musical performance when she was only 6 years old. At ten, she had her first singing role. She went on singing in Afghanistan, Indonesia, Ohio and Los Angeles. She worked on her BA at Ohio State University and then moved to Los Angeles where she was privately tutored by Derek Graydon; it was he who brought her into the world of opera. She then competed in two rounds of the Zachary and Fuchs Opera competition in Los Angeles where 500 national and international male and female vocalists present themselves. She was recognised with distinction and the judges were impressed by her performance; (she had entered the competition after only 5 years of training, still at the embryonic stage). "I still have a long way to go."

Rosana arrived in Amman on Dec. 19, 1988 and met the Jordanian poetess Zeleikha Abu Risha who works with her father. She put her in touch with musical people such as Kifah Fakhouri of the National Conservatory of Music, Nancy Zanamir, director of Gi Rho Ma, an institution that teaches music and sells instruments and music literature, as well as soprano singer Tanya Nasser, Abdel-Rahim Omar and other intellectuals and artists.

The main stage is equipped with nine elevators, 72 traps and a movable orchestra pit that can be opened or closed in two to three minutes.

The building also has space for costumes, workshops and storage areas, connected directly to the main stage. There are three rehearsal rooms for the orchestra, two for ballet, two for the chorus, 16 studios for singers and 12 for musicians.

The atmosphere is still there. Palm trees sway. Beige and pink colonial-style buildings with wrought iron balconies and flowering bushes line the narrow streets. Local residents in brilliantly coloured dresses and robes go about their daily business under a tropical African sun. Horse-drawn carts still clip clop through the narrow streets.

But the one-time capital of the former French colony of Senegal, the federation of territories known as French West Africa and the colony of Mauritania has lost the first two titles to the booming southern city of Dakar.

The third title — capital of Mauritania — was lost in 1960 when that country declared its independence and Nouakchott was built on vacant desert land 300 kilometres to the north.

"St. Louis has been abandoned," Bemoans Marie Jo Durande, who runs the 150-year-old Hotel de La Poste in this island-city on the Senegal river.

"There are a few tourists who do a circuit from Dakar to the

"People here are so open, sharing, and gifted!" she exclaimed. "It's been lovely to be here in Amman."

During this visit to Jordan, Rosana sang the "Ave Maria" and "Panis Angelicus" accompanied by Joseph, on the organ, at the wedding of the French Acting-Ambassador Francois Dobel and his wife, the French consul, in Mount Nebo, last week. It was the first time that an instrument such as the organ was played in ancient place.

Theme of Love

Her presentation at the Royal Cultural Centre follows the theme of love and will include Arias like "Ah, Je ris de me voir si belle dame ce miroir" from Charles Gounod's famous lyric opera "Faust" (1859). "Quando m'en vo solets" from Giacomo Puccini's "La Boheme" where Musetta tries to allure her old lover by crying over what used to be to is also included in the programme. From Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Die Zauberflöte" (The Magic Flute) she sings "Ach Ich Fußt" where Pamina thinks that peace comes in death rather than in a life without love. "Batti, Batti," from "Don Giovanni" where finds Zerlina asking her lover to beat her for misbehaving is also included among many others.

She ends with "Il est doux, il est bon" from Jules Massenet's Herodiade (Herod's wife). This is sung by Salome about her love, respect and admiration for John the Baptist. It is suave, sensuous and very sensual.

In the second part, after the intermission, Rosana will sing musical numbers that deal with love such as "Music of the night" from "The Phantom of the Opera," "Maybe this time, I'll be lucky" from "Cabaret" which shows a person who is not too lucky with love, it is followed by a medley of "fish gotta swim, birds gotta fly," "Memories," "Where are the simple joys of maidenhood?" from Camelot. This is a very funny part which is why Rosana tries to articulate the words to make them comprehensible to the audience.

"Tonight, tonight," from West Side Story, then "Fancy forgetting" from the musical "The Boyfriend" it is a girl's reaction to the boyfriend's forgetting his date with her. This is followed by a sarcastic piece "They say that falling in love is wonderful" and a drop of hope in "Look to the Rain" from "Finian's Rainbow."

This is followed by a medley that gives the girl's point of view on love from "My White Knight" from "The Music Man" and "Waiting for my dearie," from "Brigadoon."

Rosana wants to defy all conventions "Opera houses often choose one way of staging and stick to it as the only way of interpretation. There is a danger of stagnation in that," she explains. "Of course I would like to sing in Vienna, to learn more!"



Rosana Schutte, the James Dean of opera

"Lover-ly" from "My Fair Lady" and "Heather on the Hill" from "Brigadoon."

"Almost like being in love" comes up next with its comic rhyme.

Ecstasy

"Maybe this time" and "Send in the clowns." Then comes "Memory" from Cats where Rosana promises to give a very feline and dramatic rendering. This is followed by the song "Empty Glass" from the Rubayyat of Omar Khayyam the music composed by Hamilton Camp has an Arab beat.

A final return "Cabaret" and the last bars of "Music of the night" which should tie the whole act together. In short, one hour and ten minutes of ecstasy.

Rosana has been given free rein in producing and directing this show.

Kifah Fakhouri was instrumental in procuring her with the necessary parts while the pianist, Villadiego, has been of great assistance to her.

"He has accompanied singers before, so he offers suggestions such as emphasising a certain part. I try it out and sometimes it comes out wonderful. I appreciate the freedom of doing my own interpretation of these works. My forte is drama, which is why I sympathise with Maria Callas; for technique I look up to Kitty Takawa."

Rosana wants to defy all conventions "Opera houses often choose one way of staging and stick to it as the only way of interpretation. There is a danger of stagnation in that," she explains. "Of course I would like to sing in Vienna, to learn more!"

The heart of St. Louis is on an island in the Senegal river estuary. It was from here that Gen. Louis Faidherbe ruled over a vast

bucolic future; the Atlantic is encroaching.

Moammar Sourani, president of the chamber of commerce, says

Focus on people

Beyond a balance



Pauline Cutting, with one of her patients from Bourj Al Barajneh, Bilal who was brought to England to be treated at the Stoke Mandeville hospital

By Mariam M. Shahin

Pauline Cutting, the British surgeon who spent eighteen months in the Bourj Al Barajneh refugee camp in Beirut, saving lives and limbs of countless Palestinian refugees and Lebanese war victims alike, spoke to focus on people after concluding a short visit to Amman.

Dedication to one's career and profession have taken many people from one part of the world to another. Many work long hours, disregard weekends and yearly vacations in order to give their utmost to the profession which they think is worthwhile. Some serve governments, institutions of various sorts or themselves. A few, those "chosen few", let us call them, serve humanity in a form so unselfish and giving, that their purity of giving brings them close to a kind of sainthood.

Although some medics around the world have been considered "cut throats" of sorts, by some people, for the exorbitant prices they often charge for saving people's lives, some actually study medicine in order to help others and not to get rich. Dr. Pauline Cutting certainly belongs to the latter category.

Cutting was looking for a place to work as her appointment as a junior hospital doctor in the burns and plastic surgery department at Queen Mary's Hospital in Roehampton was coming to an end. Since she was interested in working outside of England, she decided to enquire about the possibility of working with the British charity MAP (Medical Aid for Palestinians). MAP was seeking out volunteers to work in Lebanon. At the time Cutting had no connection with Arabs or the Arab World as such.

As a result of her enquiries Pauline Cutting began what was to be a long intense involvement with victims of Lebanon's never ending war, in particular in the Palestinian camps. On Dec. 6, 1985 Cutting arrived at Beirut International Airport, for a tour of duty meant to last three months. She was to stay a year and a half.

Although she was technically in charge of the surgery department at the Hama Hospital in the Bourj Al Barajneh refugee camp for Palestinian refugees, she acknowledges "I was the most qualified on paper, but the doctors there had so much more experience than me." But as a qualified surgeon making a career in accident and emergency work, and with an interest in trauma and experience in burns and reconstructive plastic surgery Cutting found she had come to a very "appropriate destination."

Conditions were brutal. Cutting and her European and Palestinian colleagues from the camp often worked with minimum or no electricity, little water, no anaesthetics and often no food. During her stay at Barajneh, her life was endangered on countless occasions as the hospital and the camp was constant target for shelling. She, along with what became her companion camp dwellers, were exposed not only to bombardment but also starvation, malnutrition and trauma.

In her book "Children on the sieve," published last year, she bears witness to the gruesome inhumanity endured by the Palestinians of the camp. One day a woman, "was shot while trying to collect grass on the outskirts of the camp to be able to feed her seven children..."

She vividly remembers that after food was smuggled into the camp during the endless siege on Barajneh "the relief at seeing food was almost too great to control and, as I saw the eggs cracked into the pan, my eyes filled with tears."

Amid the crisis, Cutting and her colleagues made the ultimate commitment... "we will stay with the people of the camp until the danger is over. We will remain with them — to live or die with them."

But eventually, in April 1987, the siege was lifted. In the course of its 163 days Cutting nearly went deaf, had lice and ate donkey meat, ("some ate cats and dogs!"). As a result of intense pressure from various parties, the militias surrounding the camp lifted their blockade and Cutting's "nightmare" came to an end. Her place was taken over by Dr. Swee Chai Ang who incidentally was also visiting Amman this week.

Once back in England Cutting was reunited with her parents and friends, and found herself explaining her decision to stay at the camp when she had been given the choice to leave. "My parents had always taught me to respect human life, they understood what I was doing."

Ben Afshar, Cutting's Dutch colleague and friend, with whom she had shared the worst moments in the camp, became her husband. Both have been working actively with MAP since their departure from Beirut.

Although they live in Holland, Cutting has attempted to return to Beirut on several occasions after the publication of her book. She has not been granted permission yet. She has, however, managed a month-long visit to the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip during the intifada and had a lot to say on the working democracy of the Israeli authorities.

"In the West they always say (vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict) 'be objective and balanced', but you can't very well be balanced if the situation is not balanced."

The Israeli authorities have been doing everything to deny medical attention to as many Palestinians as possible. Doctors are arrested, patients are arrested while in the hospital, superficial fees are imposed as an entry requirement for government hospitals.

On the structural level, Cutting noted that Palestinians were systematically prevented from gaining medical expertise. "Only token specialisation students are accepted at Israeli universities, while most are not allowed into their medical schools in the first place. Those that specialise outside the country are usually not allowed back in or are denied permission to practice or they are expelled, or something or other," she said.

But the Palestinians are not to be beaten. Medics and nurses are working on a volunteer basis, they are very well organised and very courageous, according to Cutting.

"Before 1982 the world thought of the Palestinians as terrorists, but as a result of the publicity that events in Lebanon and the occupied territories have received that is no longer the case. The world knows who the Palestinians are and what they are doing. The Palestinians in return have paid dearly for the publicity. They have paid the price in blood."

Pauline Cutting's next stop will be in Kuwait before going to London to continue her work on behalf of MAP. She is accompanied by her trilingual son of two months, whom she has called Timothy Franz Ammar.

Soviet crime rate increases as reforms go into effect

A price for reforms?

By John-Thor Dahlburg
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — In the Soviet city of Gorky, in the heart of the Volga River Port, criminals with sawed-off shotguns murdered two policemen because they wanted their pistols.

Shocked residents of the metropolis 400 kilometres east of Moscow now are scared to leave home at night or let their children stray from sight.

"In Gorky, people are afraid to go out," one newspaper reported. "Even downtown, streets become deserted in the evening," another said.

For most Soviets, violent crime was once what they saw on television reports about Western nations, or in film imports like Hollywood two-reelers about primitive gangsters. But no more.

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's reforms and loosened controls have not only made Soviets better informed about crime at home — they have sparked a surge in lawlessness itself, by the Kremlin leader's own admission.

"From the very outset, we had to bear in mind that any extension of democracy and humanisation of life should go in parallel with an uncompromising struggle against criminal elements," Gorbachev told Communist Party leaders last month. "But party and government bodies, and also work collectives, permitted a slackening of attention to those issues."

In the past week alone, the Soviet Union's police blotter has included these crimes, as reported by state-run media:

— A police officer obtained entry to a bank in Armenia, and he and his confederates made off with \$330,000 after a cashier and three policemen died in a hail of bullets, on learning of the corrupt policeman's crime, his mother committed suicide.

— A criminal gang nicknamed "the jackals" terrorised the capital of Kazakhstan, Alma Ata. The chief of criminal investigators in the central Asian republic said he has never encountered such gruesome offences in 30 years of police work. One example: the

jackals befriended women, then raped and strangled them.

— In the Siberian region of Omsk, two 20-year army deserters went on a crime spree and battled with police, firing at them with a sub-machine gun. The outlaws were captured while asleep in a forest hideout.

For Soviets accustomed to hearing that crime was a product of capitalist exploitation and would disappear under socialism, such reports — now possible under the Kremlin's policy of greater openness — are perplexing and frightening. Official statistics show the country's crime problem is getting worse.

According to Deputy Interior Minister N. Demidov, total crime nationwide soared 31.2 per cent for the first four months of 1989 compared with the same period last year. Robberies skyrocketed by 86.7 per cent and burglaries increased by more than two-thirds, Demidov told the newspaper *Trud* last week.

15,000 and more

Trud said more Soviets now are murdered every year by criminals than died during the nine years of Soviet involvement in the Afghan war, which claimed 15,000 soldiers. The Soviet Union's population is 289.7 million.

In 1986, 20,610 Americans were murdered, according to U.S. statistics. The U.S. population is 243 million.

The Soviet interior ministry, which is in charge of police affairs, has created a department to combat lawlessness by fighting its causes, such as drug abuse, drinking and parasitism, the official TASS news agency announced.

The same day, a special party commission on legal matters, chaired by former KGB Chief Viktor M. Chebrikov, acknowledged that "the state of public order in the country is deteriorating and the number of grave crimes is rising" and recommended better training for Soviet police, more specialisation for police detectives and a "single nationwide programme for com-

mittee members" to fight lawlessness and it causes.

"If we go slowly, the streets of Moscow, Leningrad and other big cities soon will start to resemble New York's, not by the quantity of cars, goods in the stores or choice of restaurants, but by the number of criminals, drug addicts and prostitutes," the writer said.

A canyon lost in time

By Robert Seavey
The Associated Press

COLCA CANYON, Peru — Modernity is creeping into the world's deepest gorge, where the descendants of pre-Inca peoples have lived among exotic vegetation and ancient ruins protected by 4,345-metre walls.

Isolated for centuries by cloud-shrouded Andean peaks, the 100-kilometre canyon cut by the Colca River was connected in the 1970s with Peru's second largest city by a gravel track.

Now, the people who used to rely on a barter system handle money and wear manufactured clothing. The thatched roofs are being replaced by tin and tourists are making their way into the terraced Volcanic Valley to see the people and pre-Columbian ruins.

The gorge, described as "a lost valley of the Incas" by the 1933 expedition of Americans Robert Shipek and George Johnson, is emerging from obscurity.

"The whole history of Peruvian man is summarised in this startling landscape, which until only a few years ago was incomprehensible with the rest of Peru," Peruvian novelist Mario Vargas Llosa wrote in the forward to the recently published "Discovering the Colca Valley," one of the few books on the region.

Plunging from surrounding mountain ridges, the Colca drops 4,345 metres to the Colca River and varies in width from 6.4 to 20.9 kilometres, according to the Guinness Book of World Records. It would take 14.5 Eiffel Towers (each 300 metres high) stacked one atop the other to reach the canyon rim.

The canyon and valley floor are home to Indian Campesinos, descendants of pre-Inca tribesmen who settled here 3,000 years ago and grow corn and potatoes in terraced fields carved from the slopes. Ancient irrigation canals keep the land productive.

Most Campesinos still build their homes from adobe clay or rocks, and rely on the wool of their Alpaca herds for clothing.

They share these misty highlands with Andean condors and scores of rare flora and fauna, such as giant cactus and the Guanaco, an elusive cousin of the llama.

Residents, until now, had infrequent visitors.

1,500's

Spanish Conquistadors who reached Colca in the mid-1500s, built churches and towns atop Indian villages, and then left, said Mauricio de Romana, one of the authors of "Discovering the Colca Valley."

Not until a gravel road was put through in the mid-1970s, linking it with Arequipa, 150 kilometres south, was travel easy. Arequipa, Peru's second largest city, is 875 kilometres southeast of Lima.

But Romana, a director of the Colca Foundation, which seeks to preserve the zone, said the arrival of the modern world has not yet had a serious impact on the Colca Valley or its people.

They are using a \$90-million trust fund given by the U.S. government to decontaminate the place and eventually resettle 1,500 Colca inhabitants.

Construction and engineering work has begun and land cleared so houses can be built and crops planted. But experts think it may be 10 years before the area is safe to live in.

The islanders began their odyssey in 1946 when Washington started its testing with a blast over a fleet of American and Japanese warships anchored in the Bikini lagoon. A French fashion designer named a new two-piece swimsuit after the atoll.

Inhabitants had been moved to a tiny island nearby, but had to be relocated two years later because they were starving.

They were resettled on Kili, an uninhabited island where most still live.

In 1954, the United States exploded the first hydrogen bomb at Bikini.

It was 1,000 times more powerful than the American bombs dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 at the end of World War II. It exposed hundreds of islanders to radioactive fallout and vapourised three small islets.

Tourism officials say the country does not have the money to invest substantially in tourism infrastructure or even protect what already exists.

But officials say the Colca so far seems to have been spared from a recent upsurge in highway banditry and the bloody leftist guerrilla insurgency plaguing many other areas of the country.



Public discussions have become much more common after reforms were introduced



Radiation clean-up at home to nuclear nomads

By Giff Johnson
Reuters

BIKINI ATOLL, MARSHALL ISLANDS — The nomads of Bikini atoll may be able to settle down at last.

Inhabitants of the tiny Western Pacific Island have been relocated over and over since the United States exploded 23 test atomic bombs there between 1946 and 1958.

This month Marshall Islands leaders began the first stage of a massive clean-up to make the crescent-shaped island, four kilometres long and ringed with beautiful beaches, inhabitable again.

Over the years Bikinians have filed multi-million-dollar lawsuits against the United States over the nuclear damage.

"That's when the Americans started paying attention to us," says Bikini mayor Tomaki Juda.

Islanders dropped the suits last year when Washington agreed to give the Bikinians the trust fund to underwrite the clean-up and resettlement plan.

Bikini leaders have not yet decided how best to clean up the soil.

Scientists who have been doing tests there for the past 10 years suggest using potassium fertiliser to lower the soil's radiation level.

Juda says most Bikinians favour a more complicated technique, that of scrapping off two feet of top soil and replacing it with uncontaminated earth imported from the United States.

That method has its problems.

It could mean the eventual clean-up bill would exceed \$200 million, and it could leave the place in the end looking like a lunar landscape, making it difficult to restore fertility.

In the meantime, an engineering site master plan has been prepared for the first phase of the clean-up of nuclear debris and contaminated soil, according to Jack Niedenthal, an American hired by the Bikinians to act as liaison officer with Washington for the project.

Although the project will take years, islanders are already thinking ahead to the day when they might turn a decontaminated Bikini into a tourist spot.

In 1968, U.S. scientists declared the former nuclear test site safe for habitation and a small group of islanders moved back.

But 10 years later medical tests showed the Bikinians were absorbing high levels of radioactivity by eating local coconuts and other fruit, so they were evacuated again.

building a council house on the atoll so small groups of tribal elders can start visiting for weeks at a time.

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Intifada drains Israeli economy

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A 17-month-old Palestinian uprising has dealt a severe blow to Israel's economy, thwarting government efforts to get it moving again.

Figures released in May by the Central Bureau of Statistics point to a continuing slowdown despite a government austerity programme to cut inflation and stimulate growth.

Defence ministry moves to impose new restrictions on the estimated 120,000 Palestinians who provide cheap labour for Israel's construction, agricultural and tourism sectors, could further disrupt the economy, at least temporarily.

Gross domestic product (GDP) did not grow at all in the first four months of this year. Exports and imports fell, new investment and private consumption declined and there was no significant improvement in industrial production.

Statistics for 1988 show GDP — the total value of goods and services produced domestically — rose by only 1.6 per cent, the slowest growth since 1982 and a sharp drop from the 5.2 per cent GDP growth recorded in 1987.

Industrial output fell by three per cent last year. Unemployment surged to 8.2 per cent in March this year, after an average of 6.4 per cent last year.

The Bank of Israel said a drop in domestic demand due to the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and a decline in export potential due to an overvalued shekel caused the slowdown.

Underground leaders of the uprising have urged Palestinians to boycott Israeli goods.

Despite the gloomy figures, Deputy Finance Minister Yossi Beilin said the first results of the January austerity plan would only be seen in a few weeks.

"We need more time to get the business sector to believe in the programme," he said.

The government also hopes to remove some of the socialist shackles on the Israeli economy by privatising some state-owned enterprises.

The immediate impact of Janu-

ary's package of subsidy and budget cuts, increases in the price of public services and a 13.6 per cent devaluation, was to send consumer prices rocketing by 9.7 per cent in the first four months of 1989.

A Bank of Israel survey found most local companies were pessimistic about the near future. They reported a decline in new orders and big stocks of unsold goods.

The central bank said in March that the worst might be over. "In 1989, the business sector should recover and the depression should come to an end," its quarterly report said. But private economists are now less sure that recovery is on the way.

Most economists believe the key short-term goal is to bring down inflation from 17 per cent in 1988 to single figures, in line with its European and U.S. trading partners.

Israel was plagued by hyperinflation in the early 1980s.

Finance Minister Shimon Peres recently told an International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation that inflation would fall to nine

per cent by the end of 1989 and to 7.5 per cent in 1990.

That now seems impossible. Most economists expect inflation to remain close to 1988 levels this year.

The IMF group warned that Israel's expansionist monetary policy contradicted its aim of lower inflation.

Central bank governor Bruno urged economic policymakers to be patient.

"Stimulating the economy toward growth without sound foundations, for example by budgetary injection, might bring about a short episode of economic expansion, but will not help to achieve long-term sustained growth," he said.

Bruno said the success of the austerity plan depended partly on the government's determination to prevent real wage rises in Israel's swollen public sector.

Despite rising unemployment the government has so far failed to reduce real wages, which remained steady in 1988 after sharp rises in 1987 and 1986, the Bank of Israel said.

ESCUWA drafts strategy for M.E.



Tayseer Abdul Jaber

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCUWA) meeting in Baghdad, capital of Iraq, is drafting a long-term strategy for promoting de-

velopment in the region, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Tuesday.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the strategy stresses the importance of speeding up social and economic development, expanding industrial production, diversifying sources of income and concentrating more on the commodities sector.

The 13-member commission began its biannual meeting at its Baghdad headquarters last week to discuss economic and social issues and cooperation for the decade 1991-2000.

Members of the all-Arab commission are Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, North Yemen, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Yemen, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Pales-

tine.

In his opening speech May 17, ESCUWA chief Tayseer Abdul Jaber blamed the reversal of the region's economic growth on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Iran-Iraq war and the civil war in Lebanon.

But he said bad economic policies, wasteful government spending, uncontrolled imports and the international economic crisis had also helped worsen the situation.

Other factors were the fluctuation in the value of the U.S. dollar and the drop in oil prices in the 1980s, Abdul Jaber added.

The draft strategy called for upgrading agricultural efficiency through modern technology, and governmental and non-governmental participation in the agricultural sector, INA said.

It urged regional governments to remedy the problem of unemployment and curb migration from rural to urban areas, the agency added.

The draft recommended that regional countries deal with the problem of external debts and "economic subservience" by formulating long-term economic policies, minimising dependence on external financial resources and "realising the best utilisation and development of energy resources."

The draft also called for enhancing economic cooperation and integration to provide the best conditions for regional social and economic development, INA said.

Britain raises interest rates to 14%

LONDON (Agencies) — The government, in its continuing fight against resurgent inflation, Wednesday pushed up interest rates a full percentage point to 14 per cent, their highest level in more than four years.

The increase, the first since November, was triggered by weakness in the British pound.

The Bank of England signalled the rise in the British commercial banks' key base lending rate by announcing that it was raising its own money market rate to 14 per cent.

Britain's four major commercial banks, Barclays Bank PLC, Midland Bank PLC, National Westminster Bank PLC and Lloyds Bank PLC, responded by raising their base rate one point to that level.

After its announcement, the Bank of England underlined its support for the pound by intervening against the dollar, foreign exchange dealers said.

Both moves helped lift the pound about one cent against the dollar but the pound quickly fell back from highs reached immediately after the rate announcement.

The government was "obviously" reacting because it is concerned about the fall in the pound," said Tim Fox, an economist at Midland Bank.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, speaking at the Conservative Party's Women's National Conference, repeated that high interest rates were necessary to bring down inflation, which is running at an annual rate of eight per cent, compared with 3.9 per cent a year ago.

She said that while the effects of high interest rates might be uncomfortable, continued high inflation would be worse.

A treasury official, who wasn't identified in accordance with British practice, said the government "has always made it clear that we will take no risks with inflation."

Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson, the treasury's top official, has repeatedly stated over the past few months that the government was prepared to defend sterling because a decline in the currency would increase inflationary pressures.

The eight per cent annual inflation rate for April raised expectations that inflation would climb higher, rather than peak at that level, as Lawson had forecast in March.

The last time interest rates stood at 14 per cent was in March 1985.

The commercial banks' corporate customers can obtain loans at one percentage point above the base rate.

The dollar refused Wednesday to budge from its highest levels for 2½ years because of signs that U.S. interest rates will stay high.

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Seminar puts emphasis on creating right climate for investments

AMMAN (Petra) — A specialised seminar on appraising progress in the implementation of 24 projects in the Arab World ended in Amman, with the participants passing a set of recommendations designed to promote inter-Arab cooperation in investment and in the execution of joint ventures.

The participants, who came from seven countries including Jordan, called for intensified efforts on the national and pan-Arab levels to create suitable atmosphere for investments in the Arab World.

The statement referred to the importance for Arab states to adopt clear strategies in the field of investment and to revise legislation and regulations concerning investment with a view to giving them a further boost.

The participants discussed all positive and negative aspects related to investment. The two-day meeting, which was organised by the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation and the Ministry of Industry and Trade, conducted an assessment of joint projects being implemented in Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco and North Yemen, and reviewed working papers on socio-economic potentials in these countries.

British trade team arrives in Jordan tomorrow

AMMAN (Petra) — A British trade delegation is due here Friday on a five-day visit to Jordan.

The team will hold talks with officials from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) as well as chambers of industry and trade and businessmen on means of bolstering Jordanian-British industrial and trade relations.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

	Wednesday, May 24, 1989	
	Central Bank official rates	
Buy	Swiss franc 299.4	303.3
Sell	French franc 76.7	76.6
Buy	Japanese yen (for 100)	373.5
Sell	Dutch guilder 226.6	224.4
Buy	Swedish krona 79.4	80.3
Sell	Italian lire (for 100)	36.8
Buy	Deutschmark 266.6	270.2
Sell	Belgian franc (for 10)	127.4
Buy		128.9

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

	LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.
One Sterling	1.5715/25
One U.S. dollar	1.1995/2005
	2.0100/07
	2.2663/73
	1.7870/80
	42.08/12
	6.8100/50
	1456/1457
	142.40/50
	6.7470/7520
	7.2260/2310
	7.8300/50
	361.70/362.20
U.S. dollar	
Canadian dollar	
Dutch guilder	
Swiss francs	
Belgian francs	
French francs	
Italian lire	
Japanese yen	
Swedish kronas	
Norwegian crowns	
Danish crowns	
U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Prices were sharply lower as investors took profits after recent gains by blue chips. The All Ordinaries Index fell 12.9 to 1,570.4.

TOKYO — Prices closed mostly mixed in a late rebound sparked by futures-linked and investment trust buying after a sluggish day. Investors awaited a rise in the discount rate in light of the dollar's surge against the yen. The Nikkei Index was up 35.21 at 33,851.82.

HONG KONG — Stocks closed slightly lower after a volatile day. Dealers said the market appeared to be regaining touch with economic reality. The Hang Seng Index shed 58.92 to 3,008.73.

SINGAPORE — Prices fell in dull trading as uncertainty on foreign markets kept investors on the sidelines. The Straits Times Industrial Index fell 11.35 to 1,280.57.

BOMBAY — Prices closed mixed in poor trading in the absence of investor and institutional buying support. Associated Cement lost four rupees to 322. Tata Steel and Gujarat Fertiliser rose 2.5 each to 1,263 and 150 respectively.

FRANKFURT — Sharp rises for Volkswagen and other export-oriented blue chip shares sent prices soaring. The DAX index rose 19.53 to 1,372.09.

ZURICH — Prices closed generally lower in fairly quiet trading as worries about interest rates continued to dampen market sentiment. The Swiss performance index fell 8.8 to 999.4.

PARIS — Prices ended firmer on the first day of the June account in fairly active trading.

LONDON — Shares were weak in late trading after a hectic day in which U.K. base rates jumped one full point to 14 per cent. Takeover bids worth £1 billion were made and rights issues returned to the market with a vengeance as £600 million was sought from investors. At 1513 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 18.7 at 2,132.9.

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MAY 25-26, 1989 9

SPORTS IN BRIEF

McEnroe back problems not serious

FLORENCE, Italy (R) — The back problems which forced John McEnroe to withdraw from the French Open are not serious and the former world number one will definitely play at Wimbledon, McEnroe's manager Sergio Palmieri said Tuesday. "There is no cause for concern," Palmieri told Reuters. "He hasn't been able to start training after the back pains he suffered in the Netherlands in time for a tournament like the French Open. But there is absolutely no problem at all for Wimbledon," Palmieri said. He said doctors had ordered seven to 10 days complete rest after McEnroe, 30, complained of back pains during an exhibition match in the Netherlands on May 12. But he said the three times Wimbledon champion had decided to take a couple more days off before resuming training, leaving little time to prepare for the French Open.

Recovered Austrian driver will race in Mexico

MARANELLO, Italy (AP) — Austrian Gerhard Berger, recovered from injuries sustained in a flaming crash one month ago, will race in Sunday's Mexican Grand Prix at the wheel of his new Ferrari, the Italian company announced Tuesday. Ferrari officials decided to start Berger in the fourth event of the 1989 world championship after the Austrian driver passed a critical test at the company track at Fiorano Tuesday. Berger, who crashed during the San Marino G.P. in Imola on April 23, turned 45 laps and said he felt fit to resume racing. A Ferrari spokesman said the decision to have Berger resuming his racing duties at the wheel of his Ferrari No. 28 was made after consultations between the driver's doctor, Willy Dungl, and team doctor Benigno Bartoletti. Berger, who suffered a rib fracture and burns on both hands following the crash, had said last week that his right hand still was aching.

British promoter clinches Moscow fight

LONDON (AP) — British boxing promoter Mike Barrett said Tuesday he has received Soviet approval to stage the first world title fight in Moscow in late October. Barrett said the professional boxing programme, which could be held in the 20,000-seat Olympic stadium on the last weekend in October, could feature as many as three world title bouts. The fight programme would include American and British boxers, he said, and would mark the first time a professional title fight had been held in the Soviet Union. "I've reached agreement with them (Soviets), that is done. There is no question about that," Barrett said in a telephone interview. "That's stage one. Stage two is tying up world championship fights together with television." Barrett, who spent Sunday and Monday in Moscow, said he would fly to the United States next week or the following week to discuss his plans with American television networks.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦AQ975 ♦Q63 ♦AKJ9 ♦64
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 1 NT Pass
What action do you take?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦AQ953 ♦73 ♦KJ62 ♦95
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 1 NT Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦AKO ♦AKQ98 ♦7 ♦AJ93
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 2 NT Pass
What action do you take?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦K76 ♦AKRS ♦K93 ♦Q37
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass
What do you bid now?

Look for answers on Monday.

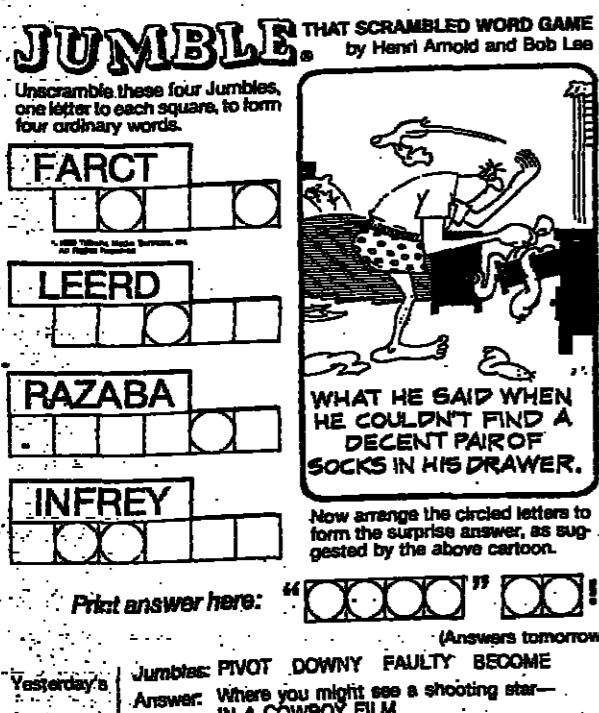
For information about Charles Goren's newsletter for bridge players, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426.

THE BETTER HALF, By Harris

HARRIS



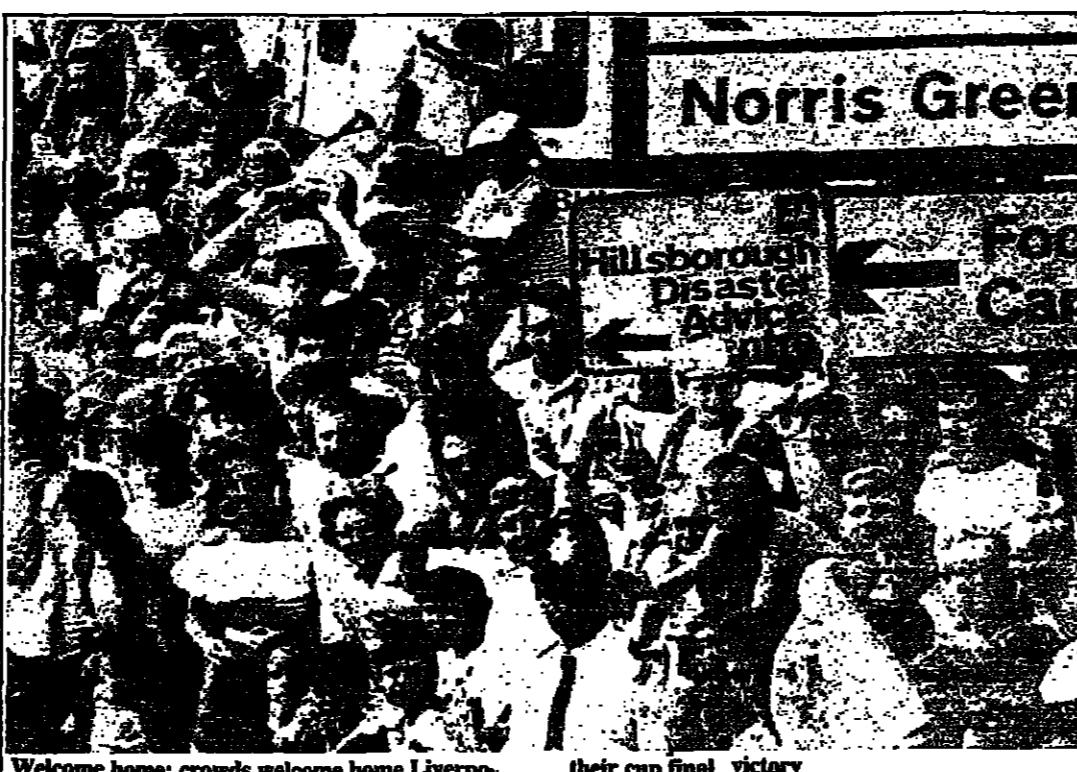
"I bought a great new watch! Every day has four lunch hours!"



Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: PIVOT DOWNY FAULTY BECOME
Answer: Where you might see a shooting star... IN A COWBOY FILM



Norris Green

Pittsburgh Disaster

Advise

Car

Welcome home: crowds welcome home Liverpool.

their cup final victory

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

by Thomas Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

This is a broad and bunter style day that deals with practical matters, productivity and worn routines.

Personal appearance and how others perceive us are linked to self-confidence and emotional security.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You establish a work record that is recognized by others. Your spirited flare is entertaining and changes other people's moods.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You have the ability to focus your attention and concentrate. A project and its rewards are nearing completion.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

There is a tendency to be too casual at the workplace. Look and do your best at this time. You can win anything you set your mind to.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Plan a total makeover of your image so that even your family won't recognize you. Give consideration to makeovers.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Follow your own rules! Siblings respond to how you act rather than to what you say. Humor and music will inspire lively cooperation.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You might be looking at newer, greener pastures. A decision will have to be made shortly. Don't keep secrets to someone with a double face.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You are at your best when you stay on the sunny side. Relationships are moving along well, and you may be dancing all night.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

Dictatorial attitudes get the job done but also produce a backlash from those affected. Search for more affordable housing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

You feel that you have hit bottom, and now it is time to bounce back with renewed vigor. Make your environment comfortable.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20)

Test the waters before you commit yourself to a permanent arrangement. Change in siblings academic progress and social needs.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19)

The Moon in your sign has you bringing people together and making everyone glad. Tell them "Rather than wine I want to dine."

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20)

You are surrounded by lively people. Give someone you adore a token of your affection. Relationships are intense, fun and enlightening.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1989

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

This is a make-believe time that is perfect for this "T.G.I.F." day!

Don't expect organized activities to stay that way. The evening hours can be filled with surprises that are humorous and entertaining.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19)

You are itching for a fun fling and seek to escape from routine. You gain by taking the initiative. Remember to get your proper rest.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20)

You don't like it when others tell you what to do. Avoid a lonely hearts day by socializing with others. Plan a party at home.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

An old flame could lighten up your spirits. A little spicy fun could add flavor. Stay away from someone who wants to kiss and tell.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21)

A smooth, sophisticated heartbeat may have more tarnish than you expected. You are gracious, generous and loyal.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21)

Handle finances in a businesslike way. Someone thinks you are great, but you must make the first move. Play to enjoy live entertainment.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22)

An associate has you on the warpath.

Avoid an "eye for an eye" philosophy which can boomerang. Make job security a priority.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

Good news about finances! The money will come soon. You are influenced by beautiful people whose looks are deceiving.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

Make recreational arrangements that will carry through the weekend. Avoid threats as a method of solving a problem.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

Feelings can influence your thinking at this time. The voice of a lover can be sharp. Retire from a hassle when things get tough.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20)

Use your excess energy wisely. Stay calm, even if your patience is stretched. Use the evening to relax and create emotional stability.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19)

Don't make a hasty promise that cannot be kept. Turn a deaf ear to gossip. Keep track of small personal items that can get lost.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20)

Buy a gift for someone you care about. Get an early start to beat traffic and parking problems. Be sure of who you are lending things to.

Soviets pull out of U.K. cycling tour unexpectedly

LONDON (AP) — The Soviet Union withdrew from a major British cycling race Tuesday just five days before its start, leaving race officials wondering whether their event had become the latest victim of a growing diplomatic row between the two nations.

The Soviet Cycling Federation sent a telex to organizers of the two-week milk race, saying it had to pull out of the event "due to an incomplete list of participants," but a race spokesman said he was perplexed by the wording of the message.

"It appears from the telex that they have had trouble raising a team," said spokesman Mike Price. "We find that difficult to believe but there is no one we can contact and we have to take them at face value."

The Soviets have been regular participants in the race since 1966 and have claimed the team title a record 10 times. Seven of the last 12 individual winners have been Soviets, including defending champion Vasily Zhdanov.

Price said the withdrawal was completely unexpected and there was no hint of Soviet team problems before Tuesday.

"We've never lost them before and you can read between the lines. You never know what they're thinking," Price said.

"We've never had this before. They came here during Afghanistan. Soviet cyclists have taken part in British events before when the governments have been at odds.

The pro-am race, which includes a prologue Sunday, formally begins Monday in London and ends June 10 in Birmingham after crossing through England and Wales.

Liverpool closes on double

LONDON (R) — West Ham United, consigned to English soccer's second division by their 5-1 thrashing by Liverpool Tuesday night, regard Arsenal's task of beating Liverpool by two goals Friday as "mission impossible."

If Arsenal, leaders for most of this season, are to snatch the title from the holders, that is what they must do at Anfield at the end of the most enthralling English League championship battle this century.

West Ham players — along with the rest of the soccer world — do not rate Arsenal's chances.

"Anything is possible but Liverpool are the best club side in the country," said Hammers' defender Tony Gale. "When they have all their players fit they are a joy to watch."

"We expected them to tire in the second half but instead they just seemed to get stronger. They are a very fit side," said Gale.

"By the end, we felt as if we had been in the cup final, not them," added fellow-defender Alvin Martin.

"They are the most creative side I have played against in a long long while and the final

score was disappointing because we did well for long periods of the game."

Arsenal manager George Graham, among others, might have expected Liverpool to look a trifle jaded after their extra time 3-2 FA Cup victory over Everton Saturday.

He must have been devastated as Liverpool rattled in three goals in the last 10 minutes.

Ironically the fateful blow to London's twin cause were struck by a player rejected early in his career by West Ham.

Ray Houghton painfully reminded his former club of his free transfer to Fulham by scoring his first goal in nine games at the crucial stage of the game.

He added the third as well before Ian Rush and John Barnes completed a rout.

John Aldridge's seventh goal in six games after 19 minutes had been matched by Leroy Rose.

"Obviously I feel sorry for them and I didn't want to see them go down," said Houghton.

"But it is over 38 games, not just the one."

The title could be decided by

the slimmest of margins now. If Arsenal win by two goals they will take it not on points, nor on goal difference, but for having scored more goals.

Houghton knew everything is playing into Liverpool's hands.

"Arsenal had to come here and win anyway, but now it looks as if it must be a very open game, and if they attack us they might leave some space at the back and we have the players with pace to exploit it. It should be a great game."

The only glimmer of hope for Arsenal is that Scottish defender Alan Hansen implied out of Tuesday's game with a thigh strain and Steve Staunton, unable to play because of an ankle injury, is also doubtful for Friday's match.

Meanwhile manager Kenny Dalglish, now so close to leading Liverpool to a second league and cup double in four seasons, reacted with sadness to West Ham's demotion.

"They are a great club and it is a personal disappointment to me to see them go down. They are run on the same lines as Liverpool and the way they played proved what a good side they are."

time. The teams combined for only 38 points in the third quarter, 20 by the Lakers. The Suns made only seven of 24 field goal attempts in the period while the Lakers were just 8-for-23.

Magic Johnson scored 22 points for the Lakers and Worthy had 12 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter.

Kevin Johnson led Phoenix with 22 points, all but four in the first half. Chambers added 21 and Majerle and Jeff Hornacek had 16 each.

The series shifts to Phoenix for games 3 and 4 Friday night and Sunday afternoon. The Suns beat the Lakers in all three regular-season meetings on their home floor. Phoenix has lost 19 straight games at the forum dating to 1984.

Neither team led by more than six points until Scott made a 3-pointer with 3:49 remaining in the first quarter, giving the Lakers a 21-18 lead. Los Angeles led 22-22 before the Suns scored the final six points of the period to go ahead 28-27.

Kevin Johnson and Scott tore each other up in the opening 12 minutes, Johnson scoring 12 points and Scott getting 11. Scott did his damage from the outside while Johnson went around Scott several times for layups.

A.C. Green had a career-play-off high five assists before the game was 10 minutes old.

A 3-pointer by Chambers with 4:36 left before halftime capped a 7-0 run and put the Suns ahead 44-39, equaling the biggest lead by either team to that point.

Overseas boost for Chinese revolt

THE ONGOING revolt in Peking and other Chinese provinces have drawn widespread support from Chinese living outside the country as well as Hong Kong which is scheduled to be returned to Chinese control by 1997. Photo on right shows a demonstration by Chinese students in Washington demanding the resignation of Chinese Premier Li Peng, the ouster of Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping and the termination of martial law in the Chinese capital. On left is a demonstration in Hong Kong in which almost a one million took part in support of the Chinese from all walks of life who are now besieging Peking's central square demanding democratic reforms, including the ouster of Li and Deng as well as an end to the martial law, which Li proclaimed to counter the protesters.

Walesa hits party for breaking 'promise'

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa accused communist authorities Wednesday of breaking a promise to register the pro-solidarity independent students association.

His statement came a day after authorities refused to allow airing of a Solidarity-produced election show on evening television.

Registration of the student organization, known as NZS, and access to television were both agreed to between communist authorities and the Solidarity-led opposition in wide-ranging "round-table" talks that ended April 5.

"The rejection of the registration of NZS breaks the 'round-table' decisions," Walesa said in a statement released by the Solidarity Citizens Committee. "It causes just anxiety of NZS activists."

The Warsaw provincial court rejected the application Tuesday.

Walesa's statement included no reference to the cancellation of the TV show that had been scheduled for broadcast at 10:35 p.m. (2125 GMT) Tuesday.

The main government press office in Warsaw said it had no immediate response to the charge that the government side had violated the agreements and referred inquiries to the management of state television and to a court spokesman. But spokesmen at both institutions said no one was available to comment.

Walesa promised that Solidarity would pursue the issue of NZS with government representatives.

"Solidarity will not abandon the matter of NZS registration," Walesa said. "Solidarity will give NZS access to its offices and to other means until it is registered."

Solidarity-endorsed senators and deputies to parliament also will raise the matter if they are elected in June 4 voting, Walesa pledged.

Announcement of the television ban on the Solidarity programme came just as the show was to go on the air.

An announcer read an official communiqué that said authorities had blocked the show "because the contents... aim against the round-table agreements."

The main thrust of the agreement was that Solidarity could become legal after a seven-year ban if the opposition agreed to take part in Poland's first democratic elections since World War II.

Tuesday's broadcast was to have been the third such Solidarity-produced TV show.



Compromise ruled out in Panama amid OAS visit

PANAMA CITY (R) — Government and opposition ruled out compromise as an Organisation of American States (OAS) mission began seeking a solution to a crisis over the annulment of Panama's elections.

The delegation of three foreign ministers and OAS Secretary-General Joao arrived in Panama City Tuesday to a hostile reception from the government, which accused it of trying to interfere in Panama's internal affairs.

The delegates said they had no intention of meddling and were only trying to help Panama solve the crisis over the May 7 elections.

Independent observers say the opposition easily won the election despite what they said were attempts to steal the balloting by strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Both government and opposition made clear the mission, set up after a special OAS session condemned Noriega for abusing the elections, had little room to manoeuvre.

It was ordered to seek the best way to ensure "the transfer of power with full respect for the sovereign will of the Panamanian people."

Panama's cabinet said in a statement issued on the eve of the mission's arrival that it would welcome the initiative if it found

that conflict with the United States was the reason for the crisis.

"But the republic of Panama will never accept any act which constitutes interference in the sphere of its national sovereignty."

The opposition demanded recognition of what it says was an overwhelming victory in the elections and ruled out a coalition

government.

"The people spoke (in the elections). We won. Why should we give anything to the losers?" opposition vice-presidential candidate Guillermo Ford asked.

Noriega said in an interview published in local newspaper Tuesday that the OAS attitude towards Panama was the result of U.S. pressure and set a dangerous precedent.

The United States was closing all roads to a civilised understanding with Panama, he said in an interview with the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina.

"Here in Panama the last battle of the free people of America is being waged, imperialism has its last battle here. If Panama falls, all the other people seeking liberation will fall tomorrow..." he said.

Popularity is not always a blessing

ENID, Oklahoma (AP) — Some residents have found out that being a fan of television actor Lee Majors is enough to prevent them from serving as jurors.

"I'm afraid I would be prejudiced because I'm a fan of Mr. Majors," Ernest Werner said Tuesday during jury selection for trial on a lawsuit the actor filed against an Enid Oil and Gas Producer. Werner was dismissed, but numerous other fans of Majors, star of "The Fall Guy," "The Six-Million Dollar Man" and "The Big Valley," lingered near the courtroom.

Majors and Enid businessman Ray Davis are seeking about \$3 million in damages from oil and gas producers Vaughn and Laura Good, claiming money they invested was misused. Lawyers for the Goods allege Majors and Davis sued because of anger over the drop in oil prices.

2 Picasso works stolen

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Thieves broke into a modern art gallery in South Africa's largest city and stole two rare Picasso works each valued at more than \$50,000, a gallery director said Saturday. Horacio Penteado, director of the Association of Friends of Modern Art, said thieves broke into a small gallery in downtown São Paulo, the continent's largest city, early Friday morning. He said they stole an etching and a ceramic figure by Pablo Picasso from an 80-piece collection of 20th century art. He fingered near the courtroom. Majors and Enid businessman Ray Davis are seeking about \$3 million in damages from oil and gas producers Vaughn and Laura Good, claiming money they invested was misused. Lawyers for the Goods allege Majors and Davis sued because of anger over the drop in oil prices.

'Heavy Metal' — the leaping frog

ANGELS CAMP, California (AP) — After 21 years of entering frogs in the Calaveras County Fair and jumping frog jubilee,

Tom Beatty won with a leaper whose name is rich in literary meaning — "Heavy Metal." The heavy favourite in Mark Twain's tall tale about jumping frogs lost because it had been loaded with buckshot. Heavy Metal, the last of 76 entrants in the 61st annual contest Sunday, jumped 603 centimetres to win the prize as a

crowd of 7,000 cheered, said fair spokeswoman Jewel Lucken. Angels Camp, a former gold rush town, hosts the jubilee to honour Twain's 1865 short story "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County." In the story, gamblers loaded up the race jumper so heavily the frog couldn't get off the ground. On Sunday, each frog got three jumps from the centre of a circle, and the distances were totalled. Handlers were allowed to scream, dance or do anything but touch their frogs to get them to jump. Gary Johnson's Moon Shine placed second

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